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ART. I. — *A Comprehensive Pronouncing and Explanatory Dictionary of the English Language, with Pronouncing Vocabularies of Classical and Scripture Proper Names.*
By J. E. WORCESTER. Boston. Hilliard, Gray, Little, & Wilkins. 1830. 12mo. pp. 420.

THIRTY years ago it would have been thought by most Englishmen, great presumption, for an inhabitant of these United States to offer for general use a Dictionary of the English Language. They would have expected to find in it all sorts of local provincial words, and a departure from English undefiled, as great as that of the Jewish Rabbinical vocabularies from the pure Hebrew of Moses. Nor would an apprehension of serious corruptions, at that time, have been wholly groundless. Unauthorized words and phrases were getting into use; and we are indebted to the timely intervention of some of our prominent scholars, after that period, for resisting any formidable encroachment on the purity of our tongue. They contended strenuously against whatever threatened to impair the character of our language, as the legitimate offspring of the English stock, or to throw obstacles in the way of our progress towards the literary elevation of our mother country, and thus to cut us off from the hope of being regarded as a constituent part with her in the republic of letters.

In 1806 appeared Webster's "Compendious Dictionary." It contained some heresies in respect to the vocabulary, the orthography, and pronunciation; but fewer than were to be expected; since, in the execution of the work, he fell much behind his own theories on these subjects. Indeed he went so far, in his Preface to that work, as to say, in respect to orthography, where great innovations were apprehended, that

"no great changes should be made at once"; but at the same time he vindicated, too indefinitely for our heterogeneous tongue, "such gradual changes, as shall accommodate the written to the spoken language, when they do not violate established principles, and especially when they purify words from corruptions, improve the regular analogies of a language, and illustrate etymology." It is easily perceived, in a language like ours, what a revolution would be effected by the full operation of this doctrine, modified though it be by cautions and salvos. Mr. Webster's good sense, aided probably by the admonitions of public criticism, so far altered his views, that, instead of advancing in this work of reform in his after labors, great and meritorious labors too, in English Lexicography, he retraced his steps, and came forth with fewer singularities in his orthography than before.

In 1813 appeared a "Dictionary of the English Language," of considerable pretensions and cumbrous size, a "Classical Dictionary," so called, being united with it; a Classical Dictionary, somewhat peculiar and fanciful, in which Aaron and Abraham are placed in company with Achilles and Agamemnon, and Canaan and Rehoboth are in familiar juxtaposition with Carthage and Rome, and in general all sorts of Scripture names are intermingled with the philosophers, and poets, and orators, the mythology, the countries, and cities of ancient Greece and Rome. The title-page to the English Dictionary, in the place of the author's name, has — "By an American Gentleman." *Stat nominis umbra*. We believe the real name has been kept as profound a secret as that of the author of Junius's Letters. It was thought by the compiler of this work that the more extensive introduction of the technical terms and nomenclatures of the various arts and sciences added much to its value. The question at that time was fairly open, how far technical words constituted a part of a particular language, and were entitled to admission into a standard dictionary. Some of the greatest philosophical critics maintained that they did not belong, as such, to the vocabulary of a language, and should be given up to dictionaries of the various arts and sciences. But though it is difficult to accomplish much of this kind in a general dictionary, in a very satisfactory manner, and a chaos of words is liable to be introduced, ill-defined, and with little etymological explanation, yet we are satisfied, that in the present condition and advancement of learning

in England and in these United States, the introduction of technical words to some extent is imperatively demanded. It will always be found difficult, however, to prescribe the limits in such a way as to preserve any strict consistency. The same remarks are applicable to words and phrases of foreign languages, which are often found in English books, and, as we think, often disfigure them. How greatly were Addison and his coadjutors, those masters of true English style, though sometimes negligent and feeble, scandalized by the appearance of some such words, then just creeping into use, by means of the existing war between their country and France ; such as *pontoons*, *marauder*, *cartel*, *corps*, *reconnoitre*, *manœuvre*, &c., words now become as familiar as our own. But when, apart from technical use, we come to words introduced by the caprice of fashion or taste, well may our Saxon blood become heated, and spur us on to war for our native speech.

The merits of this Dictionary "by an American Gentleman" having been fairly weighed, the work was found wanting. It was made evident that the compiler had pursued his labors without a consistent preconceived plan, and that there was much carelessness and haste in its execution.

In the year 1828 appeared an edition of "Johnson's English Dictionary, as improved by Todd, and abridged by Chalmers ; with Walker's Pronouncing Dictionary combined ; to which is added Walker's Key to the Classical Pronunciation of Greek, Latin, and Scripture Proper Names." This was edited by Mr. J. E. Worcester, a gentleman then already well known for accuracy of learning, diligent research, and judicious application of his knowledge in regard to some other subjects. *Chalmers*, in a notice prefixed to his Abridgment, says, that it contains every word in Todd's Johnson. It was formed however from Todd's first edition. The second edition, published in 1827, contains nearly a thousand additional words, and was received in season to have those inserted in Worcester's Appendix. These, says Mr. Worcester, together with words added from other sources, make an excess above the number of words in Johnson's Abridgment, of more than fifteen thousand. Fearful as this additional host of words may appear at first sight, our fears and wonder will subside when we advert to the sources of these recruits. In the first place, *Todd* went far back, and gleaned after the old

English Lexicographers, in order to make a complete glossary of the early English writers. Next comes the multitude of words which have sprung up from improvements, discoveries, and inventions in arts and sciences, the extension of commerce, and the increasing interchange and community of fashion and learning between the nations of Europe. No trifling addition is made also by the extensive introduction of compounded words, and by words of various classes analogically formed, some of them before overlooked, and some of them of recent origin. If we should proceed to any thing like a detailed account in these particulars, the wonder at first excited by such a great accession would be greatly lessened, if it would not wholly vanish. To the words in this Dictionary, not found in Walker, the pronunciation is added according to his principles, so far as they could be applied. In regard to the orthography, Mr. Worcester made a few changes for the sake of consistency, which are always carefully specified.

This Dictionary, thus faithfully and judiciously compiled, may justly be regarded as a great accession to English Lexicography; containing as it does so complete a vocabulary, and exhibiting in respect to words of doubtful pronunciation, the authorities of other orthoëpists, in those cases, in which they vary from Walker.

Soon after this, and in the same year, we were greeted by Mr. Webster's long expected great Dictionary, in two large quartos. In his Advertisement to this work he says, that "the Dictionary of Walker has been found by actual enumeration to contain, in round numbers, thirty-eight thousand words. Those of Johnson, Sheridan, Jones, and Perry, have not far from the same number. The American edition of Todd's Johnson contains fifty eight thousand. In the work now submitted to the public, the number has increased to seventy thousand."

It may appear incredible that nearly twice as many words as are contained in Johnson, should so soon find place in an English dictionary. But the seeming mystery is easily explained. Nouns in common use, particularly compounded words, including also adjectives in the same form (almost illimitable) or analogically derived from them, and verbs derived from nouns (an uncontrollable process), either with or without change, such as *quarantine*, *electioneer*, *retort*, *magnetize*, constitute a part of the additions, amounting to several hundreds. Participles, derived from verbs, make another

large class, sparingly introduced into preceding English Dictionaries. Add to these, adjectives derived from proper names, legal terms, and above all, terms belonging to the arts and sciences, some of which have been vastly extended, some almost created, or the nomenclature of them in their divisions and ramifications so essentially changed and enlarged, as to form almost a new language,—and it is not wholly unaccountable that thirty-two thousand words should be added to Johnson's vocabulary.

A good deal was expected of Mr. Webster, and several things are accomplished by him, so far as his authority extends, in regard to orthography. In this respect, it seems to us that two things are especially worthy of the lexicographer's best endeavours,—namely, first, the fixing of what is loose and uncertain, and secondly, a consistency in words of analogous formation, so far as it can be attained without too great an outrage against custom, and even prejudice. The saving of a letter by spelling *fether*, *lether*, while *heather* and *weather* are allowed to enjoy their superfluity, and the elision of the final *e* in *doctrine*, *determine*, &c., and the expunging of *b* from *doubt* and *debt*, admitting that etymology can be fairly pleaded, amount to so little gain, and introduce such a disturbing force into the machinery of language, that we cannot give these speculations any countenance. For there is no reason why there should not be an offset to this frugality of letters in one case, by a generous admission of supernumeraries in others, where etymology can be as strongly urged. But we are pleased to find that Mr. Webster now lays no stress upon these things, which serve, in our opinion, to lessen attention to what is more important; and that his wishes and efforts are directed substantially to what we regard as our utmost need. To one who has attended only superficially to the subject, it must be a matter of great surprise to find in how many instances the usage in orthography is not yet settled, and in how many others analogy is violated. For what Mr. Webster has done to fix the spelling where usage is doubtful, and to establish the uniform operation of rules where there exists no reason for exceptions, we cordially welcome his labors. And we could heartily wish that labors so assiduous and long continued were in all respects so well directed, as to demand a judgment in his favor. But when, for example, he invades the botanical nomenclature, which, according to for-

mer notions, belongs rather to a Cyclopædia, than to a Dictionary of a particular language, we cannot perceive what good was to be expected. Is it credible that he looked forward to a revolution in this respect, and presumed that the standard botanical works should be made to conform to his dictation? This is certainly reversing the order of things. It is the purpose of his dictionary, or should be, to explain the names already existing in any art or science, and not to translate them; to make the best of the language of the authors, if he thought it belonged to him to define it, and not to tell them how they might have chosen better; in default of which he will have nothing to do with their gibberish. Besides, in what respect are *Monander*, *Monogyn*, and the rest, Anglicized though they may seem, in some sort, more intelligible to the English reader, than *Monandria*, *Monogynia*, &c.? There are also some smaller matters, in which we dissent from Mr. Webster in regard to orthography. He allows *apostrophy* and *catastrophy*, but not *hyperboly*; thinks that "*ammonia* anglicised forms an elegant word, *ammony*"; and prefers *picturesk* to the common spelling. But we have not room to go farther into detail, and would by no means magnify these blemishes, so as to counterpoise, in the judgment of our readers, any essential improvements which are to be found in the orthography of this Dictionary.

No less was expected of Mr. Webster concerning etymology than upon orthography. It was well known, from what he had previously made public respecting his pursuits, that he had long been employed in an unwearied study and comparison of different languages to ascertain their affinities and the derivation of words. He could not fail to perceive that there were lamentable chasms in the history of their travels, such often as to leave much to conjecture, and to produce much uncertainty respecting their identity. Hence it is, that while in a great portion of our words we readily perceive their agreement with those of the northern European dialects, or those of the Norman French, through which these last are for the most part readily traced to the Latin; yet when we attempt to connect them with the oriental dialects, some links in the chain are in general evidently lost, beyond all hope of discovery. Without going into particulars on this subject, for which we have no space, we heartily, and without fear of contradiction, maintain that the author of this Diction-

ary has entered more deeply and more successfully into etymological researches, and the comparison of languages, than any of his predecessors in the same vocation. And though we might with good reason, as it seems to us, dissent from some of his decisions upon this subject, it would give us no pleasure to lessen any one's respect for the work, by pointing out errors and faults, from which a dictionary, containing such extensive inquiries and speculations in the mazes of etymology, cannot be wholly free. In the *North American Review* for April, 1829, there is an examination of this Dictionary highly creditable to the author of the review, alike for thorough research, and the indulgent, generous spirit displayed towards the great philologist, who has toiled so long, and faithfully, and successfully in *English Lexicography*. We mention this *Review* principally on account of the remarks upon etymology and the affinity of languages, and the illustrations accompanying them. These remarks and illustrations, composing more than twenty pages, form a beautiful tractate upon this subject, at once clear and succinct, such as shows that the author is deeply versed in philology, and such as, so far as it extends, would reflect honor on a scholar of any land.

As a *defining* dictionary, the work of Dr. Webster is much extended. The defects and faults in this department of lexicography, which had originally crept into the English dictionaries, and had long been copied, are here supplied and corrected. The more recent acceptations of old words are also given, though it is to be regretted, that, in so many cases, the authority is not cited. In this part of his Dictionary, so indispensable, and yet so difficult, the author has done probably as much as could be reasonably expected; sometimes we think more than enough. And after all, in respect to the meaning of the great mass of words which belong legitimately and without dispute to the English language, as such, most of which words we find in Johnson, nothing has yet superseded his examples from standard authors, intended for the solution of difficulties, and the supply of defects. We speak feelingly and from long experience on this subject. In our dark distresses when attempting to settle the true or customary sense of words, and the pure idioms, which we have trembled for, with self-distrust also, amidst the corruptions which have surrounded us, we have received from Johnson those cheering rays of

light, for which we shall never cease to be grateful. Multitudes of words, which are as well defined in dictionaries as they well can be, still perplex the young writer; and it is not till he sees them applied to their subjects, and surrounded by their adjuncts, that he can become fully satisfied concerning their meaning and the propriety of their use. But a single lexicographer cannot accomplish every thing; and while we have felt prompted to pay this grateful tribute to Johnson in passing, we would by no means be thought to overlook the unquestionable superiority of Mr. Webster's Dictionary in other particulars.

As a *pronouncing* dictionary, Mr. Webster's differs from the prevailing authorities and practice in some respects, and the vowels, whose sounds in particular situations he thinks cannot be explained by any system of notation, he leaves untouched.

Mr. Webster published also an Abridgment of his large dictionary "for the use of primary Schools and the counting-house"; in which he has corrected some errors in orthography, and made some changes. "The reader is informed," he says, "that wherever discrepancies appear between this work and the large ones,* this duodecimo volume, my last work, all written and corrected by myself, is to be considered as containing the pointing, orthography, and pronunciation which I most approve."

An Abridgment of Mr. Webster's large Dictionary, which was executed by Mr. J. E. Worcester, was published in 1829, in a large octavo form, to which is added, by the same hand, a synopsis of words differently pronounced by different orthoëpists, and Walker's Key to the Classical Pronunciation of Greek, Latin, and Scripture Proper Names.

This Abridgment contains all the words of the original work (70,000), to which are added all the words in Todd's Johnson, and such additional ones as appeared worthy of insertion. The work of abridgment therefore does not extend to the vocabulary; far otherwise, for it is undoubtedly the largest vocabulary of the English language yet produced, perhaps the largest that ever will be produced. The next arithmetical process, probably, will be that of subtraction. The leading and

* Alluding to his quarto Dictionary, and the Abridgment of the same by J. E. Worcester.

most important *etymologies*, and the *definitions* of the original work, are retained; but the *illustrations*, except in doubtful or contested cases, are omitted. — In regard to *orthography*, that of the original work takes the lead, and is followed by that which proposes a change or opportunity for choice.

Near the close of the year 1830, was published the Dictionary, whose title is placed at the head of this article. It is a convenient manual from its size, its compression, its comprehensiveness, and the clearness of the type; which, though necessarily small, is so distinct as to answer all the purposes for which the book is intended. Mr. Worcester tells us that he formed the plan of this work, when he was engaged in editing Chalmer's Abridgment of Todd's Johnson. That a work of this kind was needed, no one, who has attended to the subject, can doubt. And all who have examined Mr. Worcester's dictionary and are competent judges of its merits, must be satisfied that much has been done to supply a well known deficiency, in regard to books of this class. It does not contain so many words as Webster, by nearly a score and half of thousands; but it contains all words that are wanted in a *manual* English dictionary, for every man, woman, and child. In addition to the authorities, on the basis of which it is formed, namely Johnson and Walker, Jameson's Dictionary stands at the head of those made use of by Mr. Worcester, and many words are taken from Crabb's Technological Dictionary, Maunder's New and Enlarged Dictionary, and Webster's Dictionary.

The explanations of the words are as exact and complete as could be expected in so small a compass; and in the pronunciation of those concerning which orthoëpists differ, there are constant proofs of good judgment and an ear well trained in the art of distinguishing differences between kindred sounds.

We began our remarks in this review by adverting to the surprise which an Englishman would have felt, thirty years ago, at the appearance of an English Dictionary on this side the water. But how greatly things have changed. Professor Duglison, of the University of Virginia, an Englishman and a distinguished scholar, who has attended to English Lexicography and is acquainted with most of the works on this subject, says, "I can, without hesitation, award to this Dictionary the merit of being the best adapted to the end in view of any that I have examined. It is, in other words, the best portable 'Pro-

nouncing and Explanatory Dictionary ' that I have seen, and as such is deserving of very extensive circulation." It is, we believe, extending its circulation very widely, and we see no reason, why it should not, with those emendations which such a work must require, in which perfection can only be approximated, continue to spread more widely, and become the standard work of its kind.

A large Dictionary of the English Language is still, we think, a desideratum. The materials for such a work seem now to be very abundant, though the stores of some Philologists and Etymologists may yet afford more, and of greater value, than we are apt to suppose. To give a process by which such a work should be formed, might seem presumptuous. Yet there are some points on which we are so fully satisfied, that we are not afraid to speak our opinion; and whether right or wrong, to invite a discussion of the subject.

In the first place, the business of purification should be gone through in regard to our huge vocabulary, in which, hitherto, it seems to have been thought meritorious not only to retain every thing, but to crowd in every thing that would be tolerated. This sink and repository of heterogeneous corruptions, as Horne Tooke would call it, or this Augean Stable, as others might fancy to name it, filled with more than seventy thousand larger and smaller cattle, of native or foreign origin, should first be cleansed. Look a moment at the very beginning of our dictionaries. Are there not a thousand Latin words, genuine or barbarous, not found in any English vocabulary, as much entitled to admission as *abactor*, *abacus*, *abannition*? and as many French words with claims full as strong as *abbrevoir*? And why should we continue to print even with stereotype a host of mere dictionary words which Johnson retained without pretending to find any authority, merely because some of his predecessors had committed such deeds of pedantry? Who would now introduce for the first time such words as *abare*, *abatude*, *abature*, *abditive*, *ablactate*, and so on to the end of the alphabet? And if a host of words of this sort have so long been a mere incumbrance, neither consulted to explain old English writers, nor called up by modern ones, with what reason do they remain, if it be not merely to swell the vocabulary, while they add nothing to its value?

Again, more consistency, in fact a well defined, methodical system should be settled and strictly applied, in regard to

compounded words, and technical and foreign words, whenever a thorough reformation is attempted in English lexicography. We do not believe that the dictionary of any other language is lumbered up with such a crude collection of words as that of ours, even after making all due abatements for the heterogeneous nature of the English language. A very wide knowledge of English literature and science, a very correct judgment, and great critical acuteness are requisite for the task we are proposing; but the time will come when one or more able scholars, possessing these requisite qualifications, will undertake it. So much for the vocabulary, the first essential thing required.

In regard to the explanation of words, and the illustration of them by authorities, a great portion of the labor is already accomplished. The definitions of Johnson are in general so good, and such improvements, and where new words are added, such additions too, are made by Webster, that little remains to be sought. There are indeed defects and faults and superfluities in both; but a thorough knowledge of English, ready discrimination, and critical care and diligence can compass all that can be wished in this respect. Then as to the authorities and illustrative examples, what a treasure is at hand in Johnson! His examples may be abridged, greatly abridged perhaps; but in general they cannot be spared; no thorough English scholar will consent to have them passed by. The words which Johnson overlooked, and such as have gained a place in our vocabulary since his time, should be supported and explained in a similar manner. We look upon this sort of illustration as one of the most effectual means of preserving the purity and idiomatic beauty of our language; and shall always suspect those, who speak disparagingly of this part of the lexicographer's labors, to have been very careless observers of style, and to be very incompetent judges of the difference between genuine English idiom, and barbarous jargon.

We have very little to say about etymology. The great additions made by Dr. Webster to this department should be retained so far as they appear to be well founded. And in general we should be satisfied with the rejection of all spurious matter relating to this subject, from whatever quarter it has sprung, and a well digested collection and application of what serves to explain the origin and particularly the meaning of words, or even to gratify learned curiosity.

The utmost brevity has been aimed at in these remarks upon a wide subject ; and if any should think they fill too many of our pages, our only plea arises from the importance of the subject to all readers, and from its being a subject also to which we shall not probably have occasion soon to recur.

ART. II. — *Inaugural Discourse, delivered before the University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 3, 1831.*

By CHARLES FOLLEN, Professor of the German Language and Literature. Cambridge. Hilliard & Brown. 1831. 8vo. pp. 28.

THE German language and literature have of late years attracted much attention throughout Europe, and in this country, and are likely to attract a great deal more. A few words may therefore be allowed us, respecting their most obvious claims to notice. The German language is distinguished by the copiousness of its vocabulary, and its power of indefinite increase from its own stock. This arises from its being an original language, not made up like the English, of a motley mixture of Greek, Latin, and French, with Teutonic roots, but Teutonic throughout. A German compounds new terms almost *ad libitum* ; and these compounds, being drawn from the stock of words already familiar to the people, are immediately understood by all, and therefore, if expressive, are easily admitted into use. Hence the German language has words for the most various shades of ideas, for many of which the English affords no corresponding terms. If we wish to form a new term in science or philosophy, we run to Greek. But, as words of such an origin are necessarily unintelligible to the great body of the people, they make their way into use very slowly, and few of them comparatively obtain currency. Hence the comparative poverty of the English tongue in terms expressive of the classifications of science, or of shades of thought and feeling, and hence one of the difficulties of clothing in an English dress the German systems of intellectual philosophy. The German Language is distinguished too for its great flexibility, and power of inversion and involution. This is owing in a considerable degree to the freedom allowed in placing the prepositions, which enables a German to give coherency and clearness to his endless sentences, with all their parentheses, illustrations, and qualifications, which, literally rendered in the

stiff English tongue, would present a scene of inextricable confusion. This power in the language, of continuing a train of thought unbroken by the numberless periods of an English page, produces great fluency of style, and enables the reader to keep his attention fixed on the leading ideas with comparative ease, while in English, in which a writer is so often compelled to break up his thoughts, and give to each qualification, illustration, or subsidiary idea, a separate sentence, a reader's attention is liable to be drawn from the leading train of thought, and lost in the merely accessary and auxiliary, or the writer, for the sake of being intelligible, retrenches more than he is disposed to do. The richness and flexibility of the German language are manifested in the remarkable transference of the spirit of foreign works of imagination into German versions. The German public appreciate as fully and admire as enthusiastically the beauties of Shakspeare in a German translation, as an Englishman or American does in the original. Such is the language. We shall now touch upon a few of the strong points of the literature.

The writers of Germany are distinguished for a liberal cosmopolitan character, for the power of appreciating all forms of excellence as well foreign as native, and a superiority to the pride and jealousy produced by a petty patriotism. They are distinguished for an independent love of truth, and a contempt of authority unsupported by reason ; for great thoroughness of research, and massy erudition. The causes of this character we must look for in the circumstances of their country. The governments of Germany are monarchical ; their power is arbitrary even where it is not in form despotic ; and the avenues to posts of honor and trust are barred against the great body of the people. The country is split into numerous states, each with its court, capital, and university. The states are many of them poor and politically insignificant, and must remain obscure unless they can find some cheap means of distinguishing themselves. The German princes have therefore resorted to the patronage of literature as an easy means of doing honor to themselves, and of employing the active spirits among their subjects. They found and endow universities, and labor to fill their chairs with the ablest men. The constitution of these universities is such as to favor an active competition among the instructors. No man is allowed to slumber. His fame will be eclipsed and his emoluments

diminished by active rivals, if he is not up and doing. This state of things tends to make many and thorough scholars, including within their ranks a large number of the ablest men in the country, who in more free states would have been struggling in the political arena. These men devote themselves to literature with the same determined zeal, the same independent spirit, and the same contempt for narrow prejudices, which, in a republic, would have made them the leaders and the rulers of the people. They give the tone to the literature of the country, and make it liberal, independent, and thorough. Other causes contribute to increase the number of scholars, and to elevate the literary character of Germany. In a population exceeding thirty-four millions, and divided into numerous states, the number of educated men required to fill the public offices must necessarily be large, and where there is a large number of educated men, many will devote themselves to literature. But the scholars of Germany are not only numerous, they are also divided. The numerous capitals and universities necessarily give rise to different circles, each disposed to criticize the rest; and the number of critical journals connected with these different circles exercise their office in a very independent spirit. Sciolism, pretension, and prejudice find thousands of detectors and hundreds of castigators. The body of German writers has been estimated at ten thousand, producing from three thousand five hundred, to five thousand volumes yearly. A man who has any regard to reputation, will be cautious of appearing before such a body of critics without careful preparation. Their great number tends moreover to awaken an *esprit de corps* among the German scholars, to give them a tone and views of their own, and to raise them above the prejudices of the society around them; and the spirit of competition among them is increased by the diversity of their pursuits. Excellence in one department produces kindred excellence in others. Mutual attrition puts all in a flame. From these and other causes thorough investigation, independent thinking, and liberal views, have become characteristic of German literature. No man takes an *ipse dixit* as the rule of his faith, but deduces his own conclusions from first principles with what sometimes appears indeed a tedious prolixity of elementary detail, in the eyes of an Englishman, or an American, accustomed from the business habits of his country to jump at once to practical conclusions, but

which on the whole gives great character, freshness, and scientific spirit to German writings.

As our principal stores of thought and knowledge, in this country, are necessarily drawn from English books, it may not be out of place to touch upon some of the deficiencies in English literature which the German is most adequate to supply. One is a want of liberality. We have already spoken of the cosmopolitan spirit of the German writers, and the willingness with which they pay tribute to excellence wherever it is to be found. To the causes already assigned for this spirit we might add the situation of the Germans in the centre of Europe, surrounded by and conversant with nations of different character and origin; also the extent of their country, with its numerous population, in whom the feeling of a common origin, language, and literature represses, in a great measure, the sectional spirit usually arising from political divisions. We might add that the interests of Germany, lie mostly within her own territory. She has no widely extended foreign commerce and colonies to bring her into collision with half the earth. Now the case is very different with England. Her situation is insular, her people are out of the high road of Europe, and suffer the usual consequences of seclusion, — self conceit, and a contempt for others; and having been long accustomed to consider themselves as the only freemen in Europe, and, from their wealth and naval superiority, to exert a powerful influence on its politics, they have become habituated to a supercilious tone towards the people of the continent. Moreover the commercial and colonial relations of England are immense. That gigantic polypus extends an arm to every corner of the earth, and is liable to have its sensitiveness excited in a thousand directions and in a thousand ways. The effect of all this is a proneness to ill will, jealousy, and a spirit of depreciation towards foreigners; and the effects of this tendency are very visible in English literature. Now, as we are nurtured in the literature of England from our cradles, it seems to be a matter of some consequence to avoid imbibing the insular prejudices and commercial jealousies of our transatlantic brethren; and the liberal spirit which characterizes the literature of Germany will make it a very efficient antidote. We may be allowed to say too, that we do not consider English literature as characterized by the same independence, the same love of truth in the abstract, and the same determination to carry

principles to all their legitimate conclusions, which distinguish the literature of Germany. Notions once rooted in the literature of England maintain their ground very sturdily. An aversion to change, a determination to adhere to old ways as long as they are tolerable, seems to make a part of the English character. The constitution of government and the laws of England are founded, in a great measure, on prescription. No change can be made without a violent struggle. The cumbrous machinery and immense expenditure of the government, with the overgrown wealth of its established church, tend moreover to create a very numerous class of persons attached to the existing state of things in politics and religion. The thousand holders and ten thousand expectants of office are firm friends to things as they are. The army of churchmen *in esse* or *in posse* are staunch upholders of the Thirty-nine Articles. Hence the cry of radicalism or infidelity which is thundered against innovators in politics and religion, including all religious, philosophical, and historical writers whose opinions militate against the views of the powers that be. Moreover the spirit of that great work-shop and counting-house of the globe is eminently practical. Great principles are generally considered by the writers of England not mainly with reference to their abstract truth, but to their practical application. They are made subjects of party discussion, and are attacked or defended according as they favor or thwart the views of the respective parties. Those who read English literature exclusively, become therefore accustomed to partial views, and will find their horizon much extended by stepping into the literary field of Germany.

In regard to learning we presume there is no question of the superiority of the German literati, collectively speaking, both in the variety of their studies and the thoroughness of their research. In Germany, literature is a profession, requiring for its successful pursuit the same unflinching spirit as the other professions. It is a country of universities without rich endowments to encourage indolence, but furnishing numerous rewards for meritorious effort. In England there is comparatively little demand for professed scholarship. Her universities have been few, their endowments rich, and the field of active life so wide that the number of men who devote themselves strenuously to learned labor is small. Hence German literature is far richer than English in many departments of

learned research, in works belonging to philology, biblical criticism, classical antiquities, ecclesiastical history, &c.

The polite literature of Germany has much to render it attractive. It is the youngest in Europe, and most strongly impressed with the stamp of the time. It has grown up during the last hundred years, and is one of the fruits of the strong excitement of the period. It speaks in tones, with whose spirit and meaning the reader is familiar. The literature of the South of Europe, at least much of the finest part of it, is the product of a state of things which has gone by. It cannot be understood or felt without a study of the times to which it belongs. To appreciate the genius of the writer, to sympathize with his love or hate, his enthusiasm or his indignation, we must withdraw ourselves from the influence of our habitual associations, and labor to conceive the effects of social relations to which we are strangers. It requires no small degree of abstraction and critical analysis to bring ourselves into a state in which our feelings can be properly affected. Our feelings in fact must take their tone from our judgment. The necessity of a process of this sort must of course greatly limit the number of admirers, and the amount of admiration. A lively and general interest can arise only from a direct appeal to men's sensibilities, and in that we think the German literature exceeds the Italian or the Spanish. Its writers too have been devoted students of English literature, and their warm admiration of Shakspeare would of itself be sufficient to assure us that much of the fine thought, fancy, and feeling, on which we have dwelt fondly from childhood, has been transfused into German literature. We may add, that we belong to the Teutonic stock, and partake in the Teutonic character. The spirit which crossed the English channel with our Saxon forefathers found its way in later times over the Atlantic ocean. The usages of ordinary life, too, which knit themselves so intimately with the feelings of a people, and affect them so powerfully, have much similarity in both countries. A rigorous climate accustoms both nations to in-door occupations and amusements, disposes them to study, to grave reflection, to deep feeling, and domestic attachments; gives rise to similar wants and similar labors, and makes a thousand habitual associations common to both, which immediately awaken the sympathies of an American or English reader of German literature.

This rapid survey of some of the prominent points of German literature will show our opinion of its value. We will only add a word or two on its adaptation to our wants. Ours is a country, where it is easy to acquire a little learning, but difficult to acquire much; and the consequence is a pretty wide diffusion of superficial scholarship. Separated as we are by a wall of waters three thousand miles wide from the cultivated nations of Europe, humiliating comparisons are not forced upon us, and we are apt to plume ourselves upon very moderate attainments. An acquaintance with the stores accumulated and the talent displayed by the scholars of Germany would increase our knowledge, our modesty, and our industry. We are a practical people, immersed in busy pursuits. Our country offers a wide field for active effort. Its great resources are but partially developed. The avenues to wealth are not yet choked up. The prizes of political power are within the reach of strenuous talent; and where wealth and power can be had for seeking, the paths of studious life will be comparatively little trodden. And yet there is no country where knowledge, and knowledge too of that sort which is gained by solitary study, is more needed. A people who govern themselves should be acquainted with history. A people whose religious faith is untrammelled should understand the principles and proofs of their religion. Ignorance will make them skeptics or mystics, or each alternately. A people among whom there is no restraint on the expression of opinion should be able to discern between the true and the false, should understand the principles of reasoning and the nature of evidence. If they are to hear public lectures for the propagation of immorality, they should have an antidote in an enlightened spirit. If they are to "prove all things," they should be so instructed as to "hold fast that which is good." For such a people the means of knowledge and intellectual accomplishment should be provided most abundantly. It is not indeed to be expected that a large part of the population will be able to avail themselves of them to their full extent; but it is of importance, that those who give the tone to the nation at large, should have the best means of culture which the age affords, and among these the literature of Germany holds a distinguished place.

But it is time to close these remarks, which have been occasioned by the Inaugural Discourse of Dr. Follen, in

which the character of German literature is exhibited with an ability to which we can make no claim, and in a style of which the ease and elegance would prevent any suspicion of the writer's foreign origin, if his thorough acquaintance with his subject did not prove him to be a native of Germany.

After stating some of the causes of the low condition of German literature in the seventeenth century, and the early part of the eighteenth, mentioning its revival in the latter part of that century, paying an eloquent tribute to Mad. de Staël, whose "*L'Allemagne*" first directed general attention to the merits of German literature, and showing the unfortunate selection of the first modern German works translated into English, Dr. Follen proceeds to examine some of the grounds of the general regard, which of late years has grown up for German literature. The first department of this literature which he treats is philosophy or metaphysics. As the German philosophy is a subject of great interest, we shall give a portion of his remarks upon it.

"Of all modern nations, I believe the Germans deserve the credit of having formed the most perfect idea of this great science; an idea which lies at the foundation of all their philosophical works, particularly since the great revival of philosophy through the influence of Kant. The various branches of knowledge, the natural sciences, mathematics, history, ethics, and theology, contain each of them a copious and various detail of facts and speculations; but also some general principles from which others may be deduced, and under which all the particulars be arranged in a systematic manner. Now these principles themselves form the substance of philosophy. Philosophy, according to the German idea of it, is the system of the fundamental and regulating principles of all the various branches of human knowledge. So far therefore as the universe is revealed to human knowledge, philosophy is the system of the universe." pp. 10, 11.

"It would lead me too far, to give so much as an outline of all that has been done in this vast field of intellectual enterprise. One point, however, I feel bound to touch upon, because it may tend to do away a current error, with regard to the general character of German Philosophy. German Philosophy has been accused of a tendency to materialism and skepticism, and of leading to a denial of those spiritual realities which form the foundation of the Christian faith, — the soul of man, and the soul of the universe. 'German materialism,' and

'German skepticism,' have been used as by-words in works, which are generally, and in some respects justly admired. Now the fact is, that in France, the whole school of modern philosophy, from Condillac and the Encyclopedists, down to Cousin, the first decided opposer of this school, consists of advocates of materialism; and in England, the same system was established by Hobbes, and indirectly promoted by Locke, until Hume converted it into absolute skepticism; while the records of German Philosophy, from Leibnitz to Kant and his disciples, Fichte, Schelling, Jacobi, and Fries, do not exhibit the name of a single materialist or absolute skeptic. This remarkable phenomenon is not owing to a want of freedom in expressing opinions different from those laid down in established creeds, supported by government or by public opinion; for notwithstanding all the arbitrary restraints upon the expression of *political* sentiments in Germany, it is certain that there is no country in which, ever since the reformation of the church, there has been so much liberty in the profession of *philosophical* and *religious* opinions. True, this freedom of sentiment is not owing altogether to a high esteem for the rights of the mind, but in a great measure to a reprehensible indifference on these subjects, favored by the skepticism of some of the rulers, as under the reign of Frederick the Second, of Prussia. But whatever be the cause of this freedom from restraint, in the expression of philosophical and religious opinions, it proves, that this remarkable fact, that among all the philosophers of Germany there has not been one materialist, cannot be ascribed to circumstances and institutions of society, but must be found in the very character of German Philosophy. Indeed, if there is any thing individual and characteristic in the literature, particularly the philosophic literature of any nation, that of the Germans is signalized by its loyalty to spiritual truth, as well as by its tendency to universal comprehensiveness. The philosophic tendency of the German mind has had a decided influence upon every department of learning. Examine every branch of science, from the highest to the lowest, from the works on religion and morality to those on the cultivation of the garden, the field, and the forest, and you will find the same scientific method, — the exact and faithful workmanship of the same spirit that lives disembodied, mourning or rejoicing, sporting or worshipping, in the full and free effusions of German poetry.

"In no department, however, is the spirit of German philosophy so strikingly and continually manifested, as in literary criticism. Every book of importance that is published in any

quarter of the globe, is analysed and criticized in the literary gazettes of Germany, supported chiefly by the learned men in the different universities. Their reviews are really what they pretend to be, not merely occasional essays, skimming over the fluctuating surface of the literary deep under a borrowed flag, but serious and strict examinations of the contents and the merits of each work. This scrutiny is founded upon a thorough knowledge of all that has been accomplished in the department to which the work belongs, separating what others have said from that which is the author's own property, and, from this original matter, selecting those results which science herself may deem worthy to call her own. No one, whether native or foreigner, can be a constant and attentive reader of the critical works of Germany, without reaping for his own mind, an abundant reward for his industry." pp. 12-15.

Dr. Follen then proceeds to theology, in which the deep researches of German scholars are well known; and comments on the charge of skepticism, which has been brought against German theological writers. He then touches upon the jurisprudence, medical science, mathematics, philology, and poetry of Germany. On the last he dwells with fondness, and eulogizes it with equal truth and eloquence. After some remarks on the intimate connexion of the German and English languages, "which show that the ancestors of both nations must have been united, not merely under one military leader, but in daily life, under the same roof, at the same fireside," he proceeds,

"Tales and stories, the wonders of Red Riding-Hood, the Glass Slipper, and many others, handed down by those learned and faithful chroniclers of the wide empire of little men, the nurses, while they lead the American child back to the home which his fathers left, carry his little cousins in England over to their father-land, even the old Saxon nursery. Proverbs and 'golden sayings,' the good old household furniture and family jewels of the nation, have not yet gone so entirely out of use or fashion, as not to remind all, whose mother tongue is either English or German, of the common ancestors, from whom they are inherited.

"There is a resemblance and affinity, not only between the two languages and the literary productions of each nation, but in the very mode of perceiving and feeling them. I believe that those who have received a genuine English education, are, more than other foreigners, prepared to enter fully and intimately into the idiomatical strength and beauty of the German

classics; and the farther they advance, the more they perceive that, in studying German, they are grounding themselves in their own language and literature. On the other hand the mere fact, that the Germans alone possess a translation of Shakspeare, which makes him, if I may so say, a native poet, and have a critical exposition of his dramas, which his own countrymen read with advantage and pleasure, — this fact alone would be sufficient to show that those works which come from the very heart of English genius, find also in Germany kindred minds and an understanding heart." — p. 26.

The extracts which we have made from this Discourse will give our readers some idea of its merits. We recommend it to them as a highly interesting sketch of German literature, and a valuable introduction to its study.

ART. III. — *A Catechism of Natural Theology*. By I. NICHOLS, D. D., Pastor of the First Church in Portland. Second Edition: with Additions and Improvements. Boston. 1831. 12mo. pp. 215.

THE former edition of this work was a well-digested and useful compend of some of the most interesting facts and principles in the science of natural theology. We are glad that it met with sufficient encouragement to authorize a second edition, which is now before us in an improved form, and with valuable additions. We notice a great superiority in the typographical execution and the style of engraving in the present edition, which, in a work of this kind, we regard as of prime importance.

The author has succeeded in presenting, in a small compass, the striking illustrations of the Divine power and goodness, which have been collected from different works of nature by preceding writers and embodied in many volumes. The fine reasonings of Paley, and the graphic descriptions of Charles Bell, are condensed and applied with singular judgment and good taste. The best portion of the work, we think, is that which treats of Animal Mechanics, — a subject so clearly and beautifully demonstrated by the last-named writer. We have not detected any errors in Dr. Nichols's statements of scientific facts, and, from his well-known accuracy, we presume that none of any consequence occur.

We cordially recommend this work to the notice of parents and teachers in general, believing that they will not easily find a more lucid explanation of the interesting topics which it discusses, nor a subject more adapted to excite and improve the young minds, of which they have the charge.

As a specimen of the author's manner, we quote the following description of the architecture of the human head.

"*T.* Do you think of any evidence of design in the form of the head ?

"*A.* Round vessels are the least liable to be broken, or pressed in. Thus, a thin watch glass, because it is rounded up in the middle, will bear a very hard push. A full cask may fall with impunity, where a square box would be dashed to pieces. A very thin globular flask or glass, corked and sent down many fathoms into the sea, will resist the pressure of water around it, where a square bottle, with sides of almost any thickness, would be crushed to atoms. The common egg-shell is another example of the same class. What hard blows of the spoon or knife are often required to penetrate this wonderful defence, provided for the dormant life, or living principle, contained within the egg ! The arches of bridges, the roofs of houses, the helmets of soldiers, &c., are all constructed upon the same principle. This is not only the general form of the case which has to cover and protect the brain ; but, wonderful to think, the head is most rounded precisely in those places, where, in falling, it would be most likely to strike the ground. These are, the middle of the forehead, the projecting part of the head behind, and the upper portions upon each side, or those least protected by the shoulders. Anatomists also observe, that just in those situations where a carpenter strengthens his roofs by braces, there the roof of the skull will be found to be strengthened by strong ridges of bone on the inside, which answer the same purpose.

"*B.* Any one may perceive, that the round form of the head is the most beautiful, but few, it is probable, have ever thought of any other advantage.

"*T.* But this is a small part of the wisdom displayed in this wonderful structure.

"*A.* The skull is a double case ; and may be compared to two bowls, one within the other. The outer bowl is a tough and woody kind of bone. The inner bowl is of a much more hard and brittle texture ; anatomists give it the name of *vitreous*, from a Latin word, which signifies *glass*. What completes the contrivance, there lies between, a corky, spongy kind of

bone, anatomists call it the diploe, — and each of these particulars has its advantage. Our kind Architect seems to have contemplated several distinct securities in this structure, which are made necessary by different and not infrequent dangers to which we are exposed. It is readily seen, that one familiar danger is, that of the head being pierced through by any penetrating body, as a fork, a penknife, the corner of a stone, &c.; and hence the advantage of a hard and glassy cover about the brain, capable of turning the edge of any sharp or pointed instrument. But then, a covering hard and glassy throughout would be subject to be chipped and cracked continually. Under these circumstances, the double case is plainly the true mechanical contrivance, that is, an *inner* bone calculated to resist any cutting or pointed body, — *plated over* with another, less subject to be scaled or splintered by strokes upon the outside. Such is the architectural contrivance exhibited in the skull." — pp. 17 – 19.

The engravings to which we have alluded are as well executed, as it is reasonable to expect they should be in a work of this kind, which must be afforded at a low price; and they are well adapted to illustrate, by visible representations, the descriptions of the human frame, and other subjects embraced in the work. A good accompaniment to studies of this kind, is "Paxton's Illustrations of Paley's Natural Theology." This was republished in Boston in 1827, and very well executed; and, though it is too costly for general use, one or two copies might be afforded for the higher classes in most of our Sunday Schools. It contains very neat graphic representations of the organs of sense, of human bones and muscles, of the structure of animals, or comparative anatomy, and of insects and plants.

ART. IV. — 1. *Travels in Malta and Sicily, with Sketches of Gibraltar, in 1827.* By ANDREW BIGELOW, Author of "Leaves from a Journal in North Britain and Ireland." Boston. Carter, Hendee, & Babcock. 8vo. pp. 550.

2. *Journal of a Tour to Malta, Greece, Asia Minor, Carthage, Algiers, Port Mahon, and Spain, in 1828.* By SAMUEL WOODRUFF, Esq., Agent of the Greek Committee of the City of New York for the Distribution of

Provisions to the suffering Inhabitants of Greece. To which is appended, *An Account of the Distribution of the Cargo of Provisions and Clothing to the Suffering Greeks by the Agents of the Greek Committee of the City of New York, sent in the brig Herald, 1828.* Hartford. Cooke & Co. 1831. 12mo. pp. 283.

WHEN we first looked at Mr. Bigelow's volume we were somewhat startled and appalled by its size ; and after reading it, though in the course of reading we forgot our first impressions, we were satisfied that it might have been shorter. Its details are often too minute for the taste of many readers ; and yet this very minuteness has its advantages. The author's quick observation, and patient particularity of description, produce many curious and interesting facts, which most travellers would overlook or suppress, whether in the economy of the great element on which he was wafted, or in the manners, customs, characters of persons, productions of the earth, scenery, and natural curiosities of the places which he visited. These things therefore may pass without much serious objection. There is another characteristic of these travels which some may think requires a little apology. The author too frequently slides from the objects before him to the subjects which they suggest. The sight of an American ship of war leads him to speak of the naval affairs of different countries ; the reception of the Message of the President of the United States lures him into a discussion of the general politics of Europe ; a case of small pox suggests remarks on vaccination and varioloid ; the perusal of Sir Harry Neal's reply to strictures on the admiral's conduct before Algiers, in Shaler's "Sketches" of that regency, gives occasion to speak of the policy of Britain and America towards the Barbary powers ; and the missionary labors at Malta induce him to remark at some length upon the operation of missionaries and missionary societies. None of this, to be sure, is far-fetched ; and it is all very good too, as we might expect from so enlightened a traveller, and a gentleman of so much information and learning. But it shows that the book might have been shorter.

We have met with some very severe strictures upon Mr. Bigelow's Travels in regard to another point, and an invidious comparison of them, with those of a gentleman of very dis-

tinguished talents, whose works were noticed in our preceding number. We allude to the alleged harshness of Mr. Bigelow's remarks upon the Catholics, which has brought upon him the charge of sectarian virulence. And the prejudice excited against him does not stop here, but calls forth, by strong implication at least, an attack upon the whole book, as a heavy and tedious production. There is a seeming want of generosity in such sweeping censure, however much an author may have misjudged or offended in certain particulars. In regard to the frequent attacks upon the Catholic priesthood and ceremonies in Malta and elsewhere, it appears that Mr. Bigelow was aware of the danger of an ill-interpretation; for in his Preface he affirms, in order to defend himself against the charge of cherished prejudice, that his prepossessions, from what he had seen in his own country, were favorable to the Catholics. But the material questions are, whether the author's statements are true, — whether, if true, they ought to be made public, — and whether, if made public, he ought, or ought not, to abstain from adding his own commentaries. And these questions we are willing to suppose that any of our readers, and Mr. Bigelow's readers, can answer as well as we can. If he has exaggerated any thing, or set down aught in malice, let him be chastised. If he has made his exhibitions of what is in itself revolting, in bad taste, let him be criticized and corrected. If he repeats them too often, or with too little variety, let them be shunned. It does not seem to us that Mr. Bigelow has expressed in general any more than Protestants would, for the most part, feel in witnessing what he describes. Every enlightened Christian, Catholic or Protestant, we should think, would unite with him in the prevailing feeling of compassion which bursts forth on these occasions, excited by the miserable degradation of intellect to which beings possessing immortal souls can be thus subjected; we will not add, of abhorrence towards those who, peculiarly circumstanced, if they do not purposely abuse their power, do not see how it might be exercised for real or greater good. We are not casuists enough to say what feeling or judgment should prevail concerning them; because we cannot estimate all the circumstances of the case, or conceive ourselves so fully in their situation, as to apply the golden rule of our Saviour.

Mr. Bigelow has sometimes dwelt too long on this subject,

as well as upon some others; and his narrations and descriptions might often be improved by being more condensed. Words and phrases also occur, which, though they might not call for criticism in a private journal, should have been avoided in coming before the public. But whatever be the faults of the work, and we have touched upon the prominent ones, it is far from being a dull book, or a book of little value; and no one can fail to sympathize and feel a common interest with a traveller of such activity and zeal, — with an observer of men and things so constantly on the alert, delineating with such freshness, though it may be with a pencil too rapid and hasty, whatever chances to meet his view, or is sought out by curiosity and labor.

Gibraltar, besides its remarkable physical aspect and peculiarities, is described, as we might suppose, to be a dull military town, in which there is very little to interest a stranger, and where every thing is monotonous and stupefying to those who have in it their constant abode.

Malta, on the other hand, affords bountiful materials, considering its small dimensions, for the observation and records of the traveller. Mr. Bigelow has made the most of them, and, we should think, has overlooked scarcely any thing of consequence. He speaks of the buildings, streets, and aqueducts, the condition of the inhabitants, their dress, vehicles, husbandry, language, religion, civil polity, &c.; the knights not being forgotten in the successive periods of their history, — in their glory, decline, and final extinction.

The mixture of inhabitants in Malta, including some from almost all countries on the Mediterranean coast and islands, besides French, Dutch, and English, produces no small confusion of tongues. But there is a language belonging to the great mass of inhabitants, which is thus described by Mr. Bigelow.

“The language of the mass of the populace is harsh and unmusical. It is a corruption of the Arabic, and possesses, it is said, an affinity to the ancient Punic.

“At present, the Maltese dialect is destitute of even a fixed alphabet. In writing it, it is necessary to resort to foreign characters, and every one, being at liberty to spell as he pleases, endeavours to accommodate the orthography to the current pronunciation. There must be much diversity occasioned by so fluctuating a standard, and the different impres-

sions made on the ear. But the inconvenience is not material, as the language is chiefly used by the illiterate islanders, and the distances in Malta are too short to make it necessary, in any event, to conduct business often by the pen." p. 124.

The amount of population in the island of Malta is very remarkable.

"In 1798, this island alone numbered ninety thousand inhabitants, and Goza twenty-four thousand. The combined amount is about the same now, as the prevailing estimates give from one hundred and ten, to one hundred and fifteen thousand for the entire population. Malta and Goza, with the petty isle of Cumino between, have a superficies of only one hundred and seventy square miles. Assuming then the population of 1798 as the sum at present, there are no less than six hundred and seventy inhabitants for every square mile, congregated on these rocks. This number is prodigious, and the ratio is far greater than is any where else ascertained to exist." p. 145.

With such a population, we might well suppose, the degree of suffering must be great; and there is in fact a great deal of most pitiable wretchedness. But unwearied pains has been and is taken to make a productive soil, and with remarkable success. The process is thus described by Mr. Bigelow.

"The Maltese begin by levelling the rock, which, however, is allowed to incline a little, that all superabundant water may be drained off. They then heap together stones, broken into pieces of an irregular form, which they place about a foot deep, and cover with a bed of the same stones nearly reduced to powder. . . . They proceed to place on the stratum already described a layer of earth, brought either from other parts of the island or taken out of the clefts of the neighbouring rocks; next a bed of compost, and afterwards a second bed of earth. The preparation is then completed. These *plateaus* not only cover the originally barren plains of Malta, but are bolstered up by walls, shaped into every possible angle, against all the declivities of the hills. Such has been the perseverance of the proprietors of these grounds, that they have made them equally productive as the strongest natural lands." p. 153.

We cannot recount the history of the knights of Malta, who are involuntarily associated in our minds with the name of the island; and the following summary is all we can give on this subject.

"In the best days of the Order, five hundred knights had their homes in Malta. They dwelt in the sumptuous edifices and stately palaces of the capital, or, retired to their country-houses, which were the seats of hospitality, they cultivated, at generous cost, the soil of the rugged isle. Now, their palaces and villas, their gardens and demesnes, with this proud fortress wherein they trusted, have all passed into the possession of strangers. Only two knights remain in Malta, the venerable survivors of a fallen but illustrious line. They live as exiles in the scenes of their ancient homes. Their presence recalls the memory of the stern old Roman wandering a mendicant over plains once signalized by the valor of his arm, and the language of the suppliant they might almost adopt, — 'Date obolum Belisario.'

"The knights, in every point of view, were an extraordinary race, — extraordinary in their character, as military hospitalers, church-robed warriors, and sworded monks, — in their history, for their deeds of gallantry and martial fame, — in the lesson of their fall, exhibiting the transitoriness of human glory. 'Yesterday, they might have stood against the world; now, none so poor as to do them reverence.' " p. 265.

There are many passages which we should gladly select for our readers, pertaining to what is peculiarly interesting both in Malta and Sicily; but we cannot afford the space. We therefore take leave of these Travels with our acknowledgments to the author for the rich entertainment and valuable instruction derived from his journal.

Mr. Woodruff's Tour, in the form of letters, contains a regular journal. His continuance at Malta was short, and his account of it is brief. But his residence in Greece was of sufficient duration and under circumstances favorable to give him ample opportunities for furnishing an account of the country and its condition, of which he made a discreet use. He leans to the favorable side of the character of the Greeks; furnishing all reasonable apologies for their faults and crimes, and a due measure of praise to their virtues and excellences.

The following description of the late President of Greece, Count Capo d'Istria, or d'Istrias, whose tragic end has lately come to our knowledge, comprises in a short compass the essentials of a biographical notice of that distinguished personage.

"He is now [July, 1828,] about fifty years of age; in his person well formed, of middling stature, and graceful in his

carriage and demeanor. His countenance is placid and inviting, his eyes piercing and intelligent, yet pleasant and conciliating. I cannot better describe his face in any particular, than by comparing it with that of the late Alexander Hamilton. The similarity is striking.

"He was born at Corfu, one of the Ionian islands, of an ancient and highly respectable Greek family, who have long borne the name of Capo d'Istrias (head or chief of the Istrias). This name, or rather title, arose, as is stated, from this circumstance. Between Corfu and Ithaca is a cluster of small islands known by the name of "The Istrias." These for many generations past, have been owned by this family, who have derived a large income from the product of these possessions. In the early part of his life, he spent several years at school, in Italy. When about thirty years of age, he went, by invitation of Alexander, to Petersburg, in Russia, where, after being employed in many different and honorable offices, he was appointed by the Emperor, Secretary of State for foreign affairs. In that office he continued, highly honored and esteemed by Alexander for his talents and integrity, until chosen President of Greece in 1827. No man, I presume, within the limits of Greece or elsewhere, could be found better qualified for the arduous duties which the acceptance of this office devolves upon him. In this great and good man are happily united the scholar, the philanthropist, the statesman, and patriot." p. 61.

Mr. Woodruff's journal is written in a simple, unpretending style, and affords a good deal of information in a small compass.

ART. V. — *Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Raleigh, with some Account of the Period in which he lived.* By Mrs. A. T. THOMSON, Author of "Memoirs of the Court of Henry the Eighth." Philadelphia. Carey & Lea. 1831. 12mo.

RALEIGH, in his speech at his execution, says, "I have lived a sinful life in all sinful callings, having been a soldier, a captain, a sea-captain, and a courtier, which are all courses of wickedness and vice." This appeared to him as the sum of his life, when he looked back from the scaffold over nearly three-score and ten years, marked with almost every variety of human fortune. How different the estimate that most of

us had formed of his remarkable career. We had perhaps a remembrance only of his active life and brilliant fortunes, of the voyages he made or patronized to widely separated regions of our own continent, and that his memory was associated with that persecuted plant which is now such an article of commerce and luxury the world over. Or we may have known Raleigh best as the valiant and romantic Timias of the Faery Queen, or as the imaginative young man at Say's Court, in his "crimson velvet cloak," the adherent of Sussex, and the fortunate courtier of the fastidious and exacting Elizabeth, as he is described in Kenilworth. We had thought of him perhaps as the lover of elegant art, the student of antiquities, the patron of genius and learning, and the polisher of our prose. And when to all these and other bright images, we joined his terrible fate, and saw the injured and broken down old man, so patient, so free from all terror, ostentation, contempt, or resentment, it seemed as if new dignity and noble virtue were given to his whole life, and the character once only splendid, was now venerable and holy. And yet such was the sentence he pronounced against himself, as he besought those about him to join with him in prayer for forgiveness. Such were the words that he thought became him before God, though he had just shown a natural anxiety to leave a fair name with the world by vindicating himself from the charges that had been made against him. Let us give a little attention to the extraordinary life and character that are thus brought to our notice. Probably no public man of Elizabeth's time is so popularly known at this day, at least among us, as Raleigh.

And first, it must be borne in mind that he was to make his own way in the world. When we see him by the side of the favored Sidney or Essex, a retainer of eminent peers, and countenanced by the queen, we are apt to forget how much he had contended with, and to ascribe perhaps more importance than we should to his well known "splendor of attire and politeness of address; to a good presence in a handsome and well compacted person; a strong natural wit and a better judgment; and to a bold and plausible tongue, whereby he could set out his parts to the best advantage; all very engaging advocates for royal favor, especially in a female sovereign." [Oldys, p. 43. Oxf. Ed.] It was a very different thing for Raleigh, in humble circumstances, to secure

the good opinion of so keen a judge as Elizabeth, so jealous of "new men," and so guarded in bestowing her confidence, and for the obscure George Villiers to fascinate the feeble James and rise to a dukedom. Raleigh in his old age dared to say, "I present my thoughts to the world, to which I am nothing indebted." [Preface to his *History*.]

We have but few particulars of his life, from his birth in 1552, to his first voyage in 1579. A sort of conjectural biography generally fills a large place in the memoirs of those who lived in distant times, and especially when something is to be said of their younger days. Mrs. Thomson's work has but little of this; though Raleigh would not have complained if she had ventured farther in the use of inference from probabilities. The following passage from his *History of the World*, shows him a very good-natured critic of those who love to fill up the vacant spaces in history.

"Things, whereof the perfect knowledge is taken away from us by antiquity, must be described in history, as geographers in their maps describe those countries whereof as yet there is made no true discovery; that is, either by leaving some part blank, or by inserting the land of pigmies, rocks of loadstone, with headlands, bays, great rivers, and other particularities agreeable to common report, though many times controlled by following experience, and found contrary to truth. Yet, indeed, the ignorance growing from distance of place allows not such liberty to a describer, as that which ariseth from the remediless oblivion of consuming time. Therefore the fictions, or let them be called conjectures, painted in maps, do serve only to mislead such discoverers as rashly believe them, drawing upon the publishers either some angry curses or well deserved scorn; but to keep their own credit, they cannot serve always. To which purpose I remember a pretty jest of Don Pedro de Sarmiento, a worthy Spanish gentleman, who had been employed by his king in planting a colony upon the Straits of Magellan; for when I asked him, being then my prisoner, some question about an island in those straits, which methought might have done either benefit or displeasure to his enterprise, he told me merrily, that it was to be called the Painter's Wife's Island: saying, that whilst the fellow drew that map, his wife sitting by desired him to put in one country for her; that she, in imagination, might have an island of her own. But in filling up the blanks of old histories, we need not be so scrupulous. For it is not to be feared that time should run backward, and by

restoring the things themselves to knowledge, make our conjectures appear ridiculous." *Hist. of the World*. B. 2. Chap. 23. Sect. 4. Oxf. Ed. Vol. iv. p. 683.

We know that Raleigh was of a respectable family in Devonshire, which at the time of his birth was greatly reduced in circumstances. It is among the pleasing facts of his life that he was ever strongly attached to the scenes of his childhood, and endeavoured, in the midst of his ambitious engagements, to purchase the humble residence of his youth. He was at Oxford for a year or two, and leaving it, without obtaining a degree, we next find him in France, where he spent some years with a party of English who went over to assist the Protestants. In 1575, he continued his military course, in the Netherlands, and his passion for a sea-life does not appear till he was about twenty-eight, when he accompanied his half-brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, upon his first unsuccessful voyage to North America. From this time to the death of Elizabeth, a period of about twenty-three years, Raleigh was almost constantly in action and in court favor. It was the golden time of his life, if we are to esteem that such which is crowded with business, animation, public distinction, reverses, triumphs, and in which every power is bent to the utmost for great achievements as a public man in war and peace. Oldys says, that "a warlike reign was of greater safety to him, and a peaceful one proved his destruction." This is a lively comment upon the active, sanguine temper of his hero, and upon the withering, pusillanimous policy of James. Elizabeth could favor the boldest spirits, for she knew how to control them.

As some may have regarded Raleigh chiefly as a man of pleasure, taste, and fashion, a lover of letters and chivalry, and a happy enthusiast and dreamer, we shall, at the risk of being tedious, name some of his places and employments, to give them an idea of what he was as a matter of fact or business man.

And first of his adventures upon the ocean. These were sometimes very successful ones against the enemy for prizes, but they were chiefly for discovery, and for planting colonies, and opening new paths for trade. Several expeditions he merely fitted out or patronized, and it was in this way that his name is connected with the discovery of Davis's Straits, and with the settlement of the American colony to

which the virgin queen was pleased to give a name. He set out twice with Sir Humphrey Gilbert on his voyages to Newfoundland, in 1579 and 1583, and went twice in expeditions of his own to Guiana, in 1595 and 1617. His name is distinguished in naval warfare. He was one of a council of war to prepare against the celebrated Spanish invasion in 1588; and, according to Oldys, when the enemy was on the coast, Raleigh becoming impatient of his command on shore, where his precautions were admirable, joined the English fleet with a gallant company of nobles and gentlemen, and rendered signal service in the discomfiture of the unwieldy Armada. He was with Howard and Essex in the successful expedition against Cadiz in 1596, and commanded the van which was to enter the harbour. In 1597, he was rear admiral under Essex in the Island voyage, and gave offence to that nobleman by getting possession of Fayal, on his own responsibility, in the absence of the commander-in-chief.

Raleigh's expeditions to this country were not planned or conducted at all in the spirit in which New England was visited by the Pilgrims a few years after his death. They were for discovery, and for the acquisition of private fortunes, and to obtain new territories for an easily spared population, and open new fields for national and individual enterprise. They show a great deal of public spirit mingled with merely personal or selfish purposes; and they show further the abundant energy and resources of the adventurers. The government was cautious and frugal, and fully employed at home. The queen would grant a patent to individuals for enterprises, discoveries, and settlements, any where, so long as a Christian or a friendly power was not interfered with, and assume as little responsibility as an officer of the customs in granting a clearance. The adventurers were in general to furnish ships and money, bear the whole risk, enjoy the excitement of danger, discovery, and conquest, get spoil and fame, and bring new possessions to the crown. It was indeed a most encouraging reign to men of fiery spirits who could supply and depend on themselves; and Raleigh's virtues might well be deemed unfashionable and expose him to peril in that of the unwarlike James. The old spirit of chivalry seemed now to be turned to the ocean, and men still went abroad upon adventures, trusting to their own valor.

No one acquainted with Raleigh's career will ascribe his

maritime projects wholly to a selfish principle. They bear marks of a generous and enlightened patriotism. He assisted in every way the efforts of others. He encouraged the artist in drawing maps and plans and sketches ; he aided planters to settle in new countries, marked out tracks for discovery, sought the best spots for trade or plantation, patronized the collector of voyages, published treatises upon ships, commerce, and naval defence, expended immense sums upon the enterprises which he either conducted himself or entrusted to others ; and in his long imprisonment he could not forget the cherished objects of his best days, but he sent to the settlers in Guiana "every year, or every second year, at his own charge, to keep them in hope of being relieved." [Raleigh's Apology, in Birch's Collection. Vol. II. p. 273.]

A few of his offices and honors at home may be named. In 1580, he was captain in the forces under Lord Grey in Ireland, and the narratives of his adventures and services there are very entertaining, though some instances are given of his cruelty as well as of his desperate valor. We find him often in Parliament, and taking an active and highly independent part in many questions affecting the rights of the subject and general improvement. In 1587, he was advanced to the post of captain of the queen's guard, being at the same time lieutenant-general of Cornwall and warden of the stanaries. He was knighted about 1584, and this distinction was no inconsiderable one in Elizabeth's time. Near this period, he received from the queen, besides an immense estate in Ireland, a patent "to license the vending of wines throughout the kingdom, that by the advantages of this he might be better able to sustain the great charges which his enterprises of discovery brought upon him." This patent involved him in an amusing controversy with the University of Cambridge, which had a licensed vintner of its own and imprisoned Raleigh's man. Oldys gives the correspondence between him and the University. [Life, p. 60. Oxf. Ed.]

In 1598 and 1599, he was consulted by government touching the affairs of Ireland, and sent out with a fleet at a time when invasion was apprehended from some quarter. And there appears to have been an intention of sending him to Ireland as Lord Deputy ; but he was averse to the office. In 1600, he went with Lord Cobham to Flanders as commissioner, it is said, to treat with the States concerning peace

between England and the continental powers. The same year he was appointed Governor of Jersey; and here the patronage and reign of Elizabeth were drawing to a close.

Such were some of the offices and engagements of a busy life, connected with most of the important events of the period, and yet always affording time for philosophy, antiquities, and letters. The dates we have ventured to give may be often wrong; for in the several narratives we have consulted, it was frequently easier to get the history of an affair than the time when it occurred; and sometimes, with the month and day before us, we were at a loss for the year. A careful chronology and index would have been of great value in these, as they are in all crowded narratives. It may as well be mentioned here as in another place, that in the volume under review, some references are made in the body of the work to documents in the Appendix, which are not to be found there, that Raleigh is said to have been sixty years old at the time of his death, instead of sixty-six, and, page 66, the first voyage to Guiana is placed *after* the expedition to Cadiz.

The details of Sir Walter's active and public engagements are abundant. It would be gratifying if we had more of his private hours, of his occupations at his Sherborne and other estates, of his beautiful familiar letters, of what passed at the club he instituted at the Mermaid, and in his intercourse with his friends, the Antiquaries. He is represented by our author as "the gayest member of society, the most loquacious, frolicsome, and frequent attendant upon taverns and other places of resort then in vogue." She, as well as Oldys, has given a very pleasant account of his visit to Spenser in 1589, at his seat near the Mulla, which ran through his grounds. Todd says something of this in his life of Spenser; and as if there must always be some doubt in every thing that relates to Raleigh, it is questioned whether this visit to Ireland was voluntary and merely to see his estate there and his valued friend, or whether he retired thither for a time, on account of some disagreement with Essex. It is enough that this visit is an evidence of the intimacy between these illustrious men, and that it is intimately connected with the publication of the *Faery Queen*, a work already begun under the encouragement of Sir Philip Sidney. Spenser, in his beautiful pastoral of "*Colin Clout's come home again*," com-

memorates this meeting, and also Sir Walter's poetical talent, and his services to the poet.

It is painful that our interest in Raleigh should be interrupted by doubts as to his integrity. Few men have stood before the world in such broad light, over whom so much of mystery has been thrown. The charges against him may have come from his enemies, and they may be vague; still, in the fear that all is not right, we are put upon our ingenuity to see if we cannot clear his reputation. If a full life of him had been written by one decided, plain-spoken foe, we might have the accusations and their grounds distinctly before us; and if they could not be repelled, we should know at least what allowance to make for the man, and what deductions from the too partial estimate we had formed of him. In the volume before us, his avarice and corruption are spoken of in this rather indefinite way.

"In a letter which he wrote to the king, Raleigh acknowledged, before his trial, as he had also done to Cecil and the lords who were appointed to examine him, the only offence which could justly be laid to his charge, that of listening to the proposals made by Cobham of a bribe from Spain, although he declared that he neither believed nor approved it. It is indeed to be feared, that there was some deviation from the rules of strict integrity, induced too, probably, by the temptation of turning his abilities and influence to account; for a strange contradiction existed in the character of Raleigh, who, while he freely promoted, at his own expense, the schemes which he projected for the extension of British dominion, was clear neither from the imputation of receiving bribes from his own countrymen, nor from the disposition to admit them from foreign states. Avarice, unguarded by a nice and delicate sense of honor, was the prevailing vice of the day, and few statesmen were, in those times, exempt from stains upon their purity of conduct, which would at present consign persons in similar stations to merited and irremediable disgrace." p. 173.

His veracity has been assailed for the eloquent fables he published about the gold of Guiana, in his "*Voyage of Discovery*" to that country. Our author is not content with saying, that Raleigh tells what is not true, but charges him with the *intention* of taking in adventurers by his splendid fictions. The patient and admiring Oldys gives a long abstract of the work, and passages from an heroic poem upon the subject written, as he supposes, by George Chapman, and

adds the favorable opinion of Camden and others. Raleigh, it seems, tells much truth about the country, and so much the worse, say his enemies, when he misrepresents, as he must have known better. Might it not be more charitable to suppose that he described sometimes from report? His friends think that the book bears plain marks of good faith and sincerity, and some, that it shows too much of imagination and credulity, and that his interest probably tempted him to exaggerate and color. And yet he was himself so set upon grasping the visionary gold, that we find him fitting out vessels again and again to his darling Guiana; and twenty years afterwards, upon his return from his last and ill-starred expedition thither, he says, in his "Apology,"

"A strange fancy had it been in me to have persuaded my son whom I have lost, and to have persuaded my wife, to have adventured the eight thousand pound which his Majesty gave them for Sherborne, and when that was spent, to persuade my wife to sell her house at Mitcham, in hope of enriching them by the mines of Guiana; if I myself had not seen them with my own eyes. For being old and weakly, thirteen years in prison, and not used to the air, to travel, and to watching, it being ten to one that I should ever have returned, and of which by reason of my violent sickness and the long continuance thereof, no man had any hope; what madness could have made me undertake this journey but the assurance of the mine?" *Birch's Collection*. Vol. II. p. 270.

Of the charge against him of atheism, skepticism, and deism, we can make nothing. Whether in his early days he was a free-thinker, or that his philosophical opinions were in advance of the times, or that he was thought too bold in applying criticism to parts of the Old Testament, or whether his kindness and toleration towards dissenters offended the prelacy, or his abhorrence of Spain, the Jesuits, — the charge was certainly made, and that is all that we can say of it.

Lastly comes the charge of treason, for which, so far as respects form, he suffered death. Hume says of this affair, that "every thing still remains mysterious, and history can give us no clue to unravel it;" and so it remains now. He had incurred enmity about the tragical affair of Essex; he had become unpopular; the queen was dead; Cecil, a former friend and a wily politician, was jealous of him. James, who had just come to the throne, had heard ill of him, and prob-

ably dreaded him as a rival in learning, as well as a mighty man in politics and war. Strangely enough, he had long been an intimate of the worthless Lord Cobham; and at first from suspicion, and then from Cobham's confessions, subsequently retracted, Raleigh, in 1603, was charged with having taken part in a conspiracy with that lord, and Lord Grey and others, against the king. Then we have the trial, and Coke's brutality, and a verdict against him in plain defiance of all justice. A more atrocious proceeding may not be found under governments which openly place the will of the ruler above statutes and forms. To have any just idea of what we have merely hinted at, the whole history of this business must be read.

No warrant for execution issuing against Raleigh, we are now to follow him to his dungeon. We spoke before of his most active days as perhaps the golden time of his life. Some, who contemplate life differently, may think him a far more interesting being during his thirteen years' residence in the tower, under sentence of death, his estates forfeited, his magnificent plans of wealth, discovery, and usefulness crushed, while his heart still yearned over them; the rashness and severity which he had shown in his earlier days, tempered or quite subdued; his wife and children the companions of his captivity, and the young Prince Henry his devoted friend, and the worthy object of his affection and instruction. Here, we are told in the language of the times, "the door of his chamber being always open all the day long to the garden, he hath converted a little hen-house in the garden to a still-house, where he doth spend his time all the day in distillations;" probably compounding his "great cordial." Here, says Oldys, "we are arrived at that part of his story, wherein he will appear rather as a collegian than a captive, a student in a library than a prisoner in the tower," mustering all his powers and learning to compose his great work, the "History of the World." One might dwell long and profitably upon such an example of self-command, and steady devotion of his faculties to a great and useful object, under circumstances that seem just fitted to break down such an ardent, sanguine temper. It was probably a harder task for him to compose grave political treatises and elaborate history in his cell, than for Bunyan to follow out in jail the spiritual visions that had long filled his mind before his cap-

tivity. It is not for any one to measure the uses of trial, of disappointment in the most cherished schemes and of the most brilliant hopes. Raleigh's character wanted mellowing and ripening even at fifty, and certainly it gives evidence afterwards of a moral force and true piety and steady mental vigor, of domestic tenderness and a love of what is thoroughly pacific, that might have been wanting but for the desertion of the world, the hatred of rivals, and the silent hours of bondage.

It may be alleged against Raleigh, that in the Preface to his "*History*" and elsewhere, he shows towards James a degrading condescension and flattery. Without excusing this humiliation, we ought to remember that it was an age of exorbitant reverence for thrones and legitimacy; and the grossest adulation was esteemed but a moderate tribute to a monarch, who, according to Blackstone, united in his person not only all the claims of different competitors from the conquest downwards, but also the right of the Saxon monarchs, which had been suspended from the conquest till his accession. If in these days and in our own country we set little by such considerations, we may find a slight palliation for Raleigh's undeserved eulogy of his sovereign, that it was offered when he was in the tower and under sentence of death, and perhaps in the hope of obtaining from the king's weakness what he might in vain demand from his sense of justice.

He was released from prison in 1616, while still under sentence of death, and went upon another voyage to Guiana in 1617, with a royal commission as admiral, which Bacon, then Lord Keeper, solemnly assured him, in order to remove his doubts and fears, was a sufficient pardon. The expedition was disastrous, the Spanish government was incensed at it, and James was alarmed; and upon Raleigh's return in 1618, he was again committed to the tower, and in two or three months after suffered death under the old sentence of 1603, which seems to have been kept in reserve for him, if he should ever give offence. He was probably a victim to his own infatuation, and to the ascendancy of Spain in the councils of England; and the atrocity of his condemnation is only equalled by that of his execution. We have no room for the particulars of this impressive and well-remembered scene. A short passage from his letter to his wife just after sentence was passed, and the night before he expected to be put to death, may be a fitting close.

"You shall now receive, my dear wife, my last words in these my last lines. My love I send you, that you may keep it when I am dead, and my counsel; that you may remember it when I am no more. I would not, by my will, present you with sorrows, dear Bess; let them go into the grave with me, and be buried in the dust. And seeing that it is not the will of God that ever I shall see you more in this life, bear it patiently and with a heart like thyself. Remember your poor child for his father's sake, who chose you and loved you in his happiest time. Get those letters, if it be possible, which I writ to the lords, wherein I sued for my life. God is my witness, it was for you and yours that I desired life. But it is true that I disdain myself for begging it; for know it, dear wife, that your son is the son of a true man, and one who in his own respect despiseth death, and all his misshapen and ugly forms. I cannot write much: God he knoweth how hardly I steal this time, while others sleep; and it is also high time that I should separate my thoughts from the world. Beg my dead body which living was denied thee; and either lay it at Sherborne, if the land continue, or in Exeter church by my father and mother." *Birch's Collection of Raleigh's Miscellanies*, Vol. II. pp. 383-385.

As these few details and remarks have occupied so much space, it would be hardly worth while to venture upon an account, that must be very imperfect, of his writings, which are of almost every kind, and especially of his great work, "that ocean of history," as it has been called, the *History of the World*, beginning with the creation and closing with the conquest of Macedonia by Paulus Æmilius, and treating of things both new and old. Such is Raleigh's literary importance, that a complete view of his writings should be given, or none attempted.

His life by Oldys, in 1736, is full of curious and entertaining matter, and evidently written by one devoted to his hero; and as it is published, together with Birch's short and excellent narrative (1751) in the recent Oxford edition of Raleigh's works, we suppose it is still in good repute. Mrs. Thomson's work appeared in 1830. Though not always exact, it is an entertaining compilation from a great variety of authors. It is written in a very fair spirit, and with a due regard to moral and religious considerations in settling the character of a distinguished public man. Such a life could hardly be written heavily by any one; and in the hands of Southey,

Irving, or Scott, it would, we think, make as enchanting and instructive a work, as any that has come from their pens.

ART. VI. — *Life of Emanuel Swedenborg, with some Account of his Writings, together with a Brief Notice of the Rise and Progress of the New Church.* Boston. Allen & Goddard. 1831. 12mo. pp. 188.

THIS is a very well arranged account of the life and religion of the most remarkable pretender in the Christian church, written by a friend of his cause and for the purpose of promoting a belief in his supernatural pretensions; and therefore partaking of the character of an eulogy. But while it is adapted to delight and edify the receivers of his faith, it will be found highly entertaining by all; and perhaps those who would see in small compass a statement of the grounds on which his claims are rested, will find nowhere a more complete exposition than is here given. In the present universal agitation of the religious public and action and reaction of sects, it is not strange that this sect of enthusiasts, the most amiable perhaps which the history of enthusiasm has known, should share in the general excitement, and be anxious, notwithstanding its professed anti-proselyting spirit, to draw to itself a fair proportion of the minds which are inquiring after the actual truth. It would not be at all surprising if its success should be considerable. Many things take place daily far more astonishing than conversions to Swedenborgianism; and where a sect can at once exhibit an exemplary sweetness of deportment, offer gratification to the general love of the mystical and supernatural, and set forth the life of its prophet in so winning a form as that which is here displayed, it must be acknowledged to possess not the weakest means of securing admirers and followers. If it be true, that the Roman Catholic Church is daily adding to its members from the population of the United States, we certainly are not to wonder if the equally rational and more attractive doctrine of the New Church collect its adherents too.

We have called Swedenborg the most remarkable heresiarch of the Christian Church; and so he undoubtedly will be regarded by all who are acquainted with the particulars of his history. His origin, his connexions, his progress, are wholly

unlike those of other men who have built up divisions in the Church. He did not spring from obscurity, and assume a religious character as the only means of obtaining distinction; he was already distinguished, and extensively honored, when he commenced the character of a prophet. He was noble by birth, and by education and habit the companion of noblemen and princes. His natural talents were of a high order, and, being cultivated by diligent study, had raised him to an elevated place among the philosophers and men of science in his day. It was while thus situated, that his mind became affected with his visionary schemes, and that he turned from the realms of science to build up a new kingdom of religion. It is impossible not to be struck with the simplicity and modesty, if we may so say, with which he stated and urged his pretensions. So great is the *naïveté* with which he brings forward the most amazing propositions and relates his supernatural adventures, he wears his divine character so unconsciously and naturally, that nothing is left for us but to feel that he is thoroughly sincere and in earnest. The idea of imposture never suggests itself to the mind. But we look at him with the same feeling with which we regard those unhappy persons who, with precisely similar simplicity and self-conviction, talk to us in the lunatic apartments of their schemes and discoveries, and calmly adduce them as proofs that they are in sound mind. We have known many persons laboring under some species of mental delusion, whose whole deportment and conversation on all topics but one were rational and exemplary; and whose quiet sincerity on that one might easily persuade the stranger of the reality of what they asserted. "But any one of his visions," as Wesley says in his characteristic way, "puts his real character out of doubt. He is one of the most ingenious, lively, entertaining madmen that ever set pen to paper. But his waking dreams are so wild, so far remote both from Scripture and common sense, that one might as easily swallow the stories of Tom Thumb or Jack the Giant-Killer."

Swedenborg was born in Sweden in 1688, and, after a life of eighty-four years, died at London in 1772. He was of a thoughtful, religious turn from his earliest childhood, and even then uttered such wonderful things, that his parents declared the angels sometimes spoke through his mouth. As he advanced in life, he retained his love of spiritual

speculations, and seems freely to have indulged them ; but at the same time avoided that course of religious study which is commonly thought requisite to a right understanding of the Scriptures.

“ I was prohibited reading dogmatic and systematic theology, before heaven was opened to me, by reason that unfounded opinions and inventions might thereby easily have insinuated themselves, which with difficulty could afterwards have been extirpated ; wherefore, when heaven was opened to me, it was necessary first to learn the Hebrew language ; as well as the correspondences of which the whole Bible is composed, which lead me to read the word of God over many times ; and inasmuch as the Word of God is the source whence all theology must be derived, I was thereby enabled to receive instruction from the Lord, who is the Word.” p. 9.

That is to say, being happily ignorant of that knowledge which is required for the right interpretation of the Bible, he had nothing to prevent his adopting what principles of interpretation he pleased.

In the mean time, however, he pursued with great success the study of science and natural philosophy ; spent several years in travelling ; and in 1716 was appointed by Charles the Twelfth assessor of the mines. He was always favored by that monarch, who was a lover of mathematics, and who devised an ingenious scheme for a new arithmetic, founded on a series of sixty-fours instead of tens, of which a particular account is given in the Appendix to the present work. The philosophical works published by Swedenborg were numerous and voluminous, and upon very various subjects ; and are said to contain certain important discoveries which have since been attributed to other persons. One of these, in anatomy, was the anticipation of a discovery respecting the brain, by which Dr. Monro of Edinburgh was afterward rendered famous. They contain also many experiments and observations on magnetism, which are commonly esteemed to be of much more modern date, and are unjustly ascribed, says Dr. Patterson, to much more recent writers. It is a singular fact, that in discoursing of the magnetic needle, he was drawn into a train of reasoning, apparently fanciful, which yet led him to declare the existence of a seventh planet, forty years before it was discovered by Herschel. The various works alluded to occupied the time of our phi-

losopher between the years 1616 and 1743, and deservedly gained him a high name in the world of philosophy. During the whole of this period, however, he seems to have been feeling out his way into a higher region of thought and knowledge, and to have considered all which he was doing as simply introductory to the more exalted science of fuller light which he was eagerly sketching. The desired point he reached in the year last named, which is the date of his "illumination," as it is styled; an illumination, the character of which, we are told in the present work, cannot be fully understood in the present state of the church.

We are disappointed in not finding in this volume, an account of the circumstances and manner in which this great event occurred. The writer simply refers to a history of the affair, heretofore given, as one which cannot be trusted, stating that "there is a *general impression* among the receivers of the doctrines of the New Church, that the narrative is in itself improbable, and that although it may be in some respects true, it is nevertheless in its detail incorrectly stated." It is very vague and unsatisfactory to reply to the statement of a fact by a "general impression." But although the event itself is left so much in the dark, its consequences are not concealed. Swedenborg thenceforth gave up his scientific pursuits, and devoted himself exclusively to his new spiritual calling. He read little, keeping no books by him but a Hebrew and Greek Bible, and wrote much;—his religious works amount to twenty-seven octavo volumes. He became a companion of angels and departed spirits, conversing with them at his pleasure, and proving to others that he enjoyed this intercourse by carrying messages backward and forward between the inhabitants of this and the unseen world. Many anecdotes on this subject are related in the volume before us, accompanied with the assurance that neither the prophet nor his followers lay any stress on the evidence they afford in favor of his system. Indeed pains are taken to explain, that a true system of faith can neither need, nor be benefited by, external testimony; and a sort of eulogy is passed on Swedenborg for slighting it, which is liable to be construed into an implied censure of Jesus Christ for resting his claims upon it. We suppose, therefore, that all which the writer intends to say, is, that, to the "receivers" of the doctrine, the internal evidence is all-sufficient; yet, if the

doctrine is to gain a hearing from unbelievers, it must be on the ground of external evidence. Otherwise we do not understand the object of filling so many pages with such matter as the following.

"Mr. Springer, the Swedish consul, resident at London, a gentleman of the utmost veracity, makes the following statement :

"All that he (Swedenborg) has related to me respecting my deceased acquaintances, both friends and enemies, and the secrets that were between us, almost surpasses belief. He explained to me in what manner the peace was concluded between Sweden and the king of Prussia ; and he praised my conduct on that occasion : he even told me who were the three great personages of whom I made use in that affair ; which, nevertheless, was an entire secret between them and me." p. 74.

"Mr. Hart, the father, died in London, while Swedenborg was abroad ; who, on his return, went to Mr. Hart's house. After being let in at the street-door, he was told that his old friend was dead : to which he instantly replied, 'I know that very well ; for I saw him in the spiritual world while I was in Holland, at such a time [near the time of his death or soon after] ; also, whilst coming over in the packet to England. He is not now in heaven,' he continued, 'but is coming round, and in a good way to do well.' " p. 75.

"I asked him [Swedenborg] whether he had seen the lately deceased king Frederick the Fifth, adding, that although some human frailty or other might be attributed to him, yet I had certain hopes that he was happy. His answer was, 'Yes, I have seen him, and I know that he is not only very well off, but all the kings of the house of Oldenburg, who are all associated together. This is not the happy case with our Swedish kings, some of whom are not so well off.' This he said in the presence of the consul, and the Swedish captain with whom he sailed. He added further : 'In the world of spirits I have not seen any one so splendidly served and waited on, as the deceased empress Elizabeth of Russia.' " p. 98.

"I took the liberty of saying to him, since in his writings he always declared, that at all times there were good and evil spirits of the other world present with every man, 'May I then make bold to ask, whether, while my wife and daughter were singing, there have been any from the other world present with us ?' To this he answered, 'Yes, certainly ;' and on my inquiring who they were, and whether I had known them, he said, that it was the Danish royal family, and he mentioned

Charles the Sixth, Sophia Magdalena, and Frederick the Fifth, who through his eyes and ears had seen and heard it." p. 101.

The last two extracts exemplify what we have already said of the simplicity with which he spoke of his supernatural gifts; of which a still more amusing instance is recorded in his story of the angel who persuaded him to falsify the date of his birth.

Dr. Hartley relates it thus. Swedenborg said to him,

" 'I was born at Stockholm, 1689.' Here he told me he was not born in that year, as mentioned, but in the preceding. And on my asking him whether this was a fault in the printing, he answered, 'No; but the reason was this,' says he; 'you may remember in reading my writings, to have seen it mentioned in many places, that every cypher or number in the spiritual sense has a certain correspondence or signification annexed: ' and added, that when he had first put the true year in that letter, an angel present told him that he should write the year now printed, as much more suitable to himself than the other, 'And you know,' said the angel, 'that with us time or space are nothing; ' 'for this reason it was,' continued he, 'that I wrote it.' " p. 101.

Besides the life and character of this singular man, the present volume gives the titles and object of the several works which he published, and notices of his religious opinions. We cannot give an abstract of these, which are already as brief as they can easily be made. Those who feel disposed in a pleasant way to get a glimpse at this extraordinary system, cannot do better than to possess themselves of the book.

The "Supplement" contains a brief sketch of the progress of this sect and its present condition in Europe and America. We learn that there are twenty-eight societies in the United States, sixteen ministers and fifteen licentiates. There have been six periodical publications devoted to the cause, all of which continued in existence but a short time, except the most recent, printed in Boston, which is now in the course of its fourth year. If we may judge from the increased number of books printed, some of which are stereotyped, we should suppose that there is a great increase of zeal in the denomination, and something of a nascent spirit of proselytism.

- ART. VII. — 1. *Lectures on Witchcraft, comprising a History of the Delusion in Salem in 1692.* By CHARLES W. UPHAM, Junior Pastor of the First Church in Salem. Second Edition. Carter & Hendee. 1831. 24mo. pp. 280.
2. *An Essay on Demonology, Ghosts, and Apparitions, and Popular Superstitions; also an Account of the Witchcraft Delusion at Salem in 1692.* By JAMES THACHER, M. D., A. A. S. Boston. Carter & Hendee. 1831. 24mo. pp. 234.

THE whole tribe of ghosts, goblins, and witches has been rapidly disappearing during the last century, before the daylight of modern science and philosophy. In our own country the general diffusion of knowledge is driving them out from every corner of the land. What a dull, matter-of-fact world this will be by and by! It is true, that you hear now and then a good old-fashioned story of a haunted house; and meet with some traditional superstitions, yet lingering in the minds of the more ignorant. But we have hardly enough left to rhyme or to reason about; and even these few, which remain, are likely in the present course of things to die away ere long and to be forgotten. The schoolmaster and the lecturer are carrying on against them a quiet, but powerful exorcism.

The history, however, of these superstitions, thus passed or passing away, is a subject of general interest. While it opens a wide field for the researches of the antiquary, and the inquiries of the philosopher, it is full of entertaining and marvellous incidents, which captivate all minds. It therefore furnishes good topics for the popular lectures of a lyceum, in which it is desirable to combine entertainment with instruction. With this view the two publications which stand at the head of this article were originally written; and they are among the many good fruits which have already been produced by the establishment of lyceums. We are glad that their authors have been induced to give them a wider circulation.

Mr. Upham's "Lectures on Witchcraft" contain a very interesting and instructive account of one of the most remarkable transactions in the annals of modern superstition; and one

too upon which the community at large have but superficial information. Mr. Upham remarks very justly, that "all have heard of the Salem witchcraft,—hardly any are aware of the real character of that event. Its mention creates a smile of astonishment and perhaps a sneer of contempt, or it may be, a thrill of horror for the innocent who suffered; but there is reason to fear that it fails to suggest those reflections and impart that salutary instruction, without which the design of Providence in permitting it to take place cannot be accomplished. There are indeed few passages in the history of any people to be compared with it in all that constitutes the pitiable and tragical, the mysterious and awful. The student of human nature will contemplate in its scenes one of the most remarkable developments which that nature ever assumed; while the moralist, the statesman, and the Christian philosopher will severally find that it opens before them a field fruitful in instruction."

It is the object of Mr. Upham's work to set this transaction in its proper light, and to draw from it useful lessons. In his First Lecture he gives an historical narrative of the proceedings in Salem; the best single account which we have seen of all the circumstances of a delusion, which rose and swept all before it, and then passed off with the violence and suddenness of a whirlwind. Whether it began in malice, or sport, or a deceived imagination, it led to a scene of distress which is without a parallel in the history of our country. The dark and odious features of the transaction are relieved, however, by instances of magnanimous feeling and conduct in some of the unfortunate sufferers, and by the affecting penitence of the community after the delusion had passed away. The narrative closes delightfully with the humble and truly Christian confession of Judge Sewall, who would not meanly palter with his conscience, when he became convinced of his error.

In his Second Lecture the author presents those facts and considerations which are to be taken into view in judging of the conduct of our ancestors;—the history and state of opinions respecting supposed compacts with supernatural beings,—the law of the land respecting witchcraft,—the condition of science, philosophy, and theology, at the time,—and the general principles of human nature and human society. He ends with gathering the useful inferences and

lessons, which are to be derived from the whole subject. His work cannot fail to be useful and interesting to all classes of readers.

Dr. Thacher's work contains a good deal of entertaining matter. The greater part of it is occupied with an account of the Salem witchcraft, in which we do not perceive that he has added any thing of great importance to what is given in the preceding work. The chapters on Illusion and the Power of Imagination, contain some interesting illustrations of these subjects. The author has collected a goodly number of authentic stories, new and old, of ghosts and apparitions, and of their annunciations to the living, of events which sometimes did and sometimes did not occur, in conformity with their declarations. These supposed supernatural appearances and audible communications he attempts to explain by the operations of physical causes in regard to those who are thus fearfully visited. In some cases the explanations appear very satisfactory, and they are usually ingenious and philosophical.

ART. VIII. — *Knowledge for the People, or the plain Why and Because.* By JOHN TIMBS, Editor of "Laconics," "Arcana of Science and Art," &c. Parts I, II, and III. Boston. Lilly & Wait. 12mo.

EACH of these Parts, consisting of seventy-two pages of closely printed "Whys," as questions, and "Beauses," as answers, is devoted to some particular subject. Part I, is on Domestic Science; Part II, on Quadrupeds; Part III, Origins and Antiquities.

Of all the off-hand treatises for the people, we know of none less worthy their confidence and support than that of which the title stands at the head of this article. Why? Because almost every page of the author is a monument to his ignorance, and his quotations from others are in language, which, if the people understand it, contains information adapted neither to their taste nor their wants.

We have lived, some of us, a dozen years among the chips and shavings, scales, filings, and turnings, dust and gudgeon-grease, gas and vapor, bark and hides, lye and ashes of our mechanics, bleachers, chemists, tanners, soap-boilers, and other classes of our working-men and working-women, and

we know that their practical good sense will never allow them to consider quotations from purely scientific writers, like Cuvier and Blumenbach, as the proper medium for their instruction.

The interest of "the people," for whom this work is especially written, is not in the origin of an art, but in its practical applications. Their success depends too much on their industry and skill to allow them time to inquire into the antiquity of their customs.

The taste of our people is for things, not names; for knowledge of a common and substantial order, not that suited to the taste of antiquaries and surface-skimmers. But our serious objection to this book, lies not only in its want of adaptation to the taste, necessities, and capacity of the people, but in its puerilities, and numerous errors both of fact and philosophy. Let us adduce some examples.

"Why does sunshine extinguish fire?"

"Because the rays engage the oxygen, which had hitherto supported the fire." Part I. p. 4.

It is a miracle that any of us can live in sunshine, such a powerful deoxydating agent! We even begin to doubt the truth of the story of the eagle's turning her young one's eyes to the sun, and of the old bird herself flying right in the face and eyes of that luminary, just as the author here does in the teeth of truth. Allowing that the sunshine does extinguish fire, we cannot attribute this to the cause above stated; for we cannot believe that the rays of the sun, diffused, can extinguish, when, concentrated, they kindle fire.

We do not deny the chemical effects of the sun's rays, nor that they reduce some metallic oxydes; but that our atmosphere can be decomposed by bright sunshine, is one of the "arcana of science" which Mr. Timbs must have the sole merit of revealing.

If this be a fact, which Heaven forbid, it certainly affords us a most ready and inexhaustible source of nitrogen. We have only to expose a bottle of common air to the sun in order to collect nitrogen perfectly pure; for what little of carbon there may be floating in air, combined with oxygen, will probably descend in a shower of soot, the sun's rays decomposing the carbonic acid. Luckily, we have invented stoves, which thus screen the fire from the sun's action. But we must not heat our stove too hot.

"Why is the extreme heat of stoves for heating rooms, pernicious to health?"

"Because if the temperature be thus raised much higher than 300° Fahrenheit, the animal and vegetable matter, which is found at all times mechanically mixed with the air, will be decomposed, and certain vapors and fluids produced of a deleterious quality and peculiar smell. The matter here alluded to is very visible to a naked eye in a sun-beam let into a dark room." Part I. pp. 6, 7.

This is the old story of atmospheric dust which some philosophers declare to exist and to be deposited in such quantities, that the earth's diameter, on their calculations, ought to have increased at least twenty-seven feet since the birth of our Saviour. It certainly ought to be present in the above ratio in our parlors, to produce such effects by its combustion, as this plain "Because" teaches us to expect. We wonder our author did not think of deoxydating the air by the heated iron of the stove, — a much simpler answer to his "Why."

"Why is salt beef reddened by boiling in hard water?"

"Because of the additional salt which renders the water harder." Part I. p. 18.

Truly if we are to wait for a slice, till we can understand this reason, we shall die of starvation. Nor are our fears on this head at all relieved by the bread which the next section offers us.

"Why does stiff dough of flour and water, soon turn sour?"

"Because the water undergoes the acetous fermentation, and becomes vinegar." Part I. p. 18.

We have no doubt, that this unheard of fermentation of simple water is at the bottom of that grand secret of vinegar-making, for which the Salem Lead Company is said to have paid no less than five thousand dollars. It is out now, thanks to Mr. Timbs; and our ships' crews need not fear scurvy, if vinegar can prevent it. We sincerely sympathize with the odd ends of cider-mugs; — their chance of being again served up as vinegar is sadly lessened in these days of refined discoveries.

From the bake-house we are next introduced to the brewery; all the secrets of the trade are revealed. We hope our brewers will learn now, how to correct the vile fermentation of water, without the addition of deleterious articles.

"Why is Muscovia glass used by brewers in fining and correcting stale beer?"

"Because it is a mineral product containing magnesia, and affording, by boiling, a considerable portion of *gelatine*! The magnesia neutralizes or destroys a portion of the acetous acid in the stale beer, and the *gelatine* carries down with it all the suspended impurities. A pound is said to go as far in fining beer as two pounds of isinglass." Part I. p. 24.

Now the *rationale* of the operation is very good; but who ever before heard of mineral *gelatine*? Lands flowing with milk and honey, and out of whose hills we "may dig brass," we know are common enough; but here we have the addition of calf's-foot jelly; so that with our salt-mountains, and hills of rich jelly, we may bid defiance to famine. The truth is, Mr. Timbs knows nothing about these matters. He mistakes the mineral called mica, or isinglass, or Muscovy glass, for that animal product called glue, or *gelatine*, or isinglass, and which has always been supposed to be peculiar to the animal kingdom. The mineral isinglass is perfectly insoluble in water, contains not a trace of *gelatine*, and its addition to beer therefore is worse than useless. The whole account is so perfectly ridiculous, that we began to think that the types themselves had committed this egregious blunder, till we came to this question.

"Why does carbonate of soda restore sour and flat beer?"

"Because carbonic acid is thus introduced." Part I. p. 24.

This is perfect mystery. Indeed what little notions we had on the subjects of neutralization and fermentation are wholly upset by plain "Why and Because." We profess not to understand how vinegar added to malt can "inoculate wort made from it, with the acetous fermentation." Mr. Timbs seems to be very partial to carbonic acid. He even allows that the effect of pearl-ash in softening green pease and beans, depends on the "carbonic acid, seizing upon the lime in the gypsum, and thus freeing the vegetables from its influence."

It would be insulting the understanding of our readers to tell them that no such action of the carbonic acid can take place. If it did, it would only substitute carbonate for sulphate of lime; or, in other words, Mr. Timbs says that it is easier to chew marble than alabaster. These are a few only of the numerous mistakes which meet our eye on every page. We

have not been particular in our selections. If we were to point out one more glaring than others, it would be this.

"Why does potash, dissolving in spirits of wine, prove it to be adulterated?"

"Because so strong is the attraction of the basis of potash for oxygen, that it thus discovers and decomposes the smallest quantity of water in the spirit." Part I. p. 42, 43.

The action of potassium on water is here confounded with that of the subcarbonate of potash in concentrating alcohol. If the word *potash* in the question had been potassium, the answer would still have been absurd, because the purest alcohol contains water in its elements, which the potassium would decompose. Hence the test is useless. But who who ever heard that potassium, as such, exists in potash? Its reduction to the metallic state marks one of the most splendid epochs of chemistry, and therefore this mistake is tenfold more unpardonable than any other.

We can only glance at the other numbers of the work. That on Quadrupeds has some sound and rational answers to very interesting questions; and others which are no answers at all, or very absurd ones.

Some of the "Whys and Because," in this Part, are little else than identical propositions, changing from an interrogative to an affirmative form; as, to the question "Why is the dog attached to man?" the answer amounts to nothing more in substance than, — because he is naturally attached to man. (Part II. p. 19.)

"Why are digestion, circulation, and respiration called organs of involuntary motion?" Part II. p. 10.

"Because" — but the answer would be well enough if it belonged to the question; the mistake is in calling the *functions* performed by organs, the organs themselves.

It is a proverbial saying, that a dog's nose is always cold. But Mr. Timbs tells us of the cat, that "its nose is always cold, except on the day of the summer solstice, and then it becomes lukewarm."

"Why is the deer as strong as he is fleet?"

"Because of the peculiar hardness of the bone of his foot." Part II. p. 38.

Alas, for our ossified understandings!

Of the horse, we are informed, that when brought to the

stable-door, he *expands* the pupil of his eye to *keep out* the extra light, which would be injurious to vision. (Part II. p. 44.)

We respectfully suggest to the publishers of this work, whether the word *expend* had not better be changed to *contract*, in their second edition; it is probably an oversight in this. We cannot believe that any man with eyes to see, would open them to shut out the light. It is quite unnatural, to say the least.

The account of "Origins and Antiquities" is amusing; but after the sample we have given of Mr. Timbs's correctness, we have very little faith in the accuracy of his researches. We have room only for one specimen from this part.

"Why are buns so called?"

"Because of the origin of the term from a species of sacred bread, which used to be offered to the gods, and was called Boun. The Greeks, who changed the *nu* final into a *sigma*, expressed it in the nominative, Bous, but in the accusative more truly *Bovv*, *Boun*. Heyschius [Hesychius] speaks of this Boun, and describes it as a kind of cake, with a representation of two horns. Julius Pollux mentions it after the same manner as a sort of cake with horns. Diogenes Laërtius, &c." Part. III. p. 15.

Be it remembered that this is knowledge for the people. We presume that it is meant for the *rising* generation. It is beyond and above the comprehension of those, whose earliest recollections of Hot Cross Buns are associated with Mother Goose. We should lament to learn that "One a penny, two a penny," is no longer sung; and therefore we hope that no nursing mother of our infant schools will reduce the "plain Why and Because" of Buns to rhyme. Such profound knowledge must be taught by some severer process.

ART. IX. — *The Bravo; a Tale*. By the Author of "The Spy," "The Red Rover," "The Water-Witch," &c. 2 vols. 12mo. Philadelphia. Carey & Lea. 1831.

MR. COOPER has managed with unrivalled success the various scenes of the ocean, and the characters and manners of the wayfarers of the great deep; with almost equal skill has he depicted some of the incidents of our frontier settlements and the likenesses of their adventurous inhabitants. To the natives of these regions his pencil has also lent its

glowing colors ; and though an ardent imagination and a recoiling from the harsh portraiture of other days and unkindly hands have, to our view, led him too far, and made him give to them more than justice could possibly require, and than truth can admit, yet the painting shows in its execution much of the skill of a master ; and though not to be relied on as a true likeness, is yet perhaps equally to be prized as a work of art.

These subjects however were becoming too familiar in his hands, and he has now presented to us scenes and characters widely different from any to be found in our happy country. In his selection however of a subject for the employment of his pen, he seems to have been guided by a higher motive, than the mere advantage to be derived from a change of place and persons ; and even, from this motive, to have made that change less conducive to his own reputation, as a skilful and successful writer of fiction, than it might otherwise have been rendered. This motive was, to present a contrast to the truly republican institutions of our country in one of the self-styled republics of the old world ; and by unfolding, through the incidents of his narrative, the character and policy of the government of Venice, to show how ill-founded were her pretensions to the title, and how widely different the principles that ruled and decided her fate ; so that she may no more be mentioned as an illustration of the consequences and effects of that kind of government, nor have the records of her destiny idly and maliciously employed to divine or predict the occurrences or fate of our own.

We think that he has succeeded in the attainment of this object, and has given us an insight into the heartless and tortuous policy of that once renowned state, strikingly at variance with the open and liberal polity of our own republic. The distinguishing points between the features of Venetian aristocracy or oligarchy (for we are in doubt which title would most properly be bestowed upon that government), and those of institutions purely republican, are briefly and cursorily touched upon in various places, and with considerable discrimination and force of remark ; we doubt, however, whether these passages will serve greatly to increase the favor of the work in the eyes of the generality of readers, who take up a book of this description for amusement and excitement merely, and not for instruction ; and who are extremely apt

to fancy every thing conducive only to the latter an imperfection in the work, a hindrance or a drawback to the progress or amount of their gratification.

With all this, however, the title of the work has little to do, and we look upon it as a grievous misnomer. "The City of St. Mark," or something of similar import, would, in our view of the subject, have been far more appropriate than "The Bravo." It is true, that one of the conspicuous personages of the tale, and the one whose fate forms its conclusion, is by common repute a distinguished member of that unholy fraternity, little known out of the cities of Italy, where the violence of passion, and the mingled impotence, inequality, and subservient yielding of the laws to the great and powerful, often occasion acts of private revenge for injuries. Yet the person in question enjoys his evil reputation very undeservedly, being in reality but a secret agent of the police, a tool of the cruel, mysterious, despotic, and irresponsible Counsel of Three; ensnared in their toils by his devotion to his father; who was secretly and unjustly detained in the prisons of the state for a crime of which his innocence had been proved, and to obtain whose liberation the son consented to become the minister of their secret will, and for the furtherance of their designs, to be esteemed a bravo. This is all well enough for the real purposes of the tale; but to those readers (and they are very many), in whose minds the name of bravo is linked with a thousand fearful tales, and more fearful imaginations, of foul, daring, and secret murder, of deadly cunning and diabolical revenge, it will seem pitifully tame and uninteresting. They will greatly miss the pleasurable excitement, after reading it, of not being able to pass a dark corner or a lonely and shaded portico without looking back and starting at the fancied swift and silent approach of a muffled figure with the half unsheathed dagger gleaming in his hand. So far from making victims of others, this supposed murderous hero is but the victim of his own ill fame, and the unfeeling and unprincipled policy of those he served, by whom he is made to perish on the block, as the murderer of a man secretly put to death by the police. The death of this man had caused an alarming popular commotion, and the Bravo was accused of having committed the murder. To appease the popular fury, his death was determined on, with the less reluctance perhaps on the part of his masters, that

he had, in one or two instances, just before, suffered the better feelings of his nature to prevail in opposition to the known wishes of the senate, and to the thwarting of their views in other matters. Feeling, conscience, and humanity were things too dangerous to be tolerated by the councils of St. Mark.

In the earlier part of the work, the *Bravo*, or more properly speaking, Jacopo Frontoni, appears but casually, and rather as an object of wonder and detestation to the other characters, than as having any prominent share in the tale, if we except that which he bore in the regatta or rowing match. Towards the middle of the second volume Jacopo becomes an object of more interest, and the latter part of it is devoted to the explanation of his character and services, and the untimely doom that is their reward.

The rest of the story is devoted mainly to the love of Don Camillo Monforte for the Donna Violetta of Tiepolo, the last of a wealthy and powerful Venetian family, in whom centered the riches of the race, making her, in addition to her own charms, a prize well worth the seeking, and therefore, according to the selfish and aggrandizing policy of the Venetian Senate, a prize not lightly to be yielded but in subservience to their own views ; more especially to a foreigner, for such Don Camillo was by birth, though in virtue of his descent entitled to much wealth and even senatorial rank in Venice itself. To claim these was the object of his residence in Venice ; and the manner in which his claims were thwarted, and the acknowledgment of them delayed, and the motives for so doing, as well as for attempting to prevent his success with the lady, as gradually developed in the progress of the story, afford a fine illustration of the mean and tyrannical character of the government.

By the assistance of Jacopo, zealously grateful for a little compassionate kindness on the part of Don Camillo, the latter is at length successful in foiling the watchful cunning of the police with their own weapons, and, relinquishing all hopes of his Venetian lands and lordship, flies to his own patrimony at a safe distance from the leap of the winged lion of St. Mark.

The third prominent division of the story, for there are three, (whether any or which of them is properly to be called an episode is a matter of little consequence) comprises

the adventures and fate of the fisherman Antonio; the tumult or insurrection of his brethren of the Lagunes, consequent upon the discovery of his body; and the manner in which that tumult was allayed by turning the rage of the populace upon an innocent person, the reputed Bravo, Jacopo, and causing him to die, as the scape-goat of the government, in defiance of the earnest wishes and entreaties of the Doge, who had been convinced of his innocence by the pathetic intercession of Jacopo's betrothed and a pious Carmelite friar, who had performed the last offices of the Catholic religion to the fisherman when living, and who had witnessed his death by the authorized agents of the Council of Three. These three divisions are interwoven with each other with sufficient, if not always with great skill, and all tend in their different events to elucidate the character and conduct of the government with regard to as many different classes of society, that is, the nobility, the laboring classes, and its own immediate agents and dependents. Various characters of less importance are introduced to fill up the picture, and give it the necessary grouping and animation, while they contribute in some appropriate measure to the great end of the work.

The plot of the story, as we have thus detailed its component parts, is well calculated to fulfill what we consider to have been the author's great design in the selection of his subject, and in the execution of his work, though it may possibly be deemed defective by those who are disposed to criticize such things by the rules of art. We are not ourselves such tenacious adherents of the laws of the *Epopœia*, as to refuse to be satisfied with a work of this kind, that pleases and interests us, because the author might make it better by making it otherwise than it is, or by submitting his own conceptions to the plans that suited the conceptions of others who wrote before him with success.

In the characters and events of the story we recognise much of Mr. Cooper's usual excellence. Jacopo, and Antonio, the old fisherman, are well conceived and delineated, and ably supported. Antonio, in particular, we think one of our author's best creations, and from his first appearance to his last he invariably commands our respect and admiration; though we should not have expected to find such a character in his situation, yet nothing in him that we recall, seems overstrain-

ed or unnatural. Jacopo is almost equally well drawn, and we become much interested in his fate towards the conclusion of his tale, and feel much commiseration for his tortures of hope deferred and life made unavoidably loathsome, as well as for the pitiless cruelty with which his career is terminated.

The senators Gradenigo and Soranzo form a fine contrast, and exhibit well the corrupting effects of ambition and arbitrary power upon the nobler feelings of man; the one exemplifying the advanced stages, and the other the commencement of a similar career.

Gelsomina, the betrothed of the Bravo, unknown to her in that relation, is a beautiful and beautifully drawn character, and must, we think, be admitted as a strong negative to the sweeping assertion that Mr. Cooper does not seem capable of conceiving or delineating with effect his female personages.

The other characters, without any thing particular to distinguish them, are good in their respective places, and are depicted with sufficient ability and accuracy.

Our first impressions on taking up the book were, that we should miss much of Mr. Cooper's peculiar excellence, his powerful and glowing description of the scenes of nature, and of those where human beings are congregated under motives of excitement, and laboring to some particular individual or common end. We were however agreeably disappointed; the Regatta (or, in plain English, the rowing-match) is highly animated and picturesque, and well worthy of the author's reputation. He seems as much at home in the midst of the canals and in the Lagunes of Venice as in the Hurlgate and the broad Atlantic, or the pathless woods and prairies of our western country; and manages his gondolas with as much grace and effect as he does his favorite Baltimore schooners.

There is one scene that perplexed us as to its merits; we mean that in the secret sitting of the Council of Three, wherein the old senators, laying by their habitual craft and policy, indulge for a few moments in recalling the festivities and dissipations of their youthful days, and give loose to a merriment little suited to their years and habitual pursuits, and least of all to the purposes for which they had then come together.

The work indeed has its faults, and they are those of

which Mr. Cooper has been reminded before, and which we should be heartily glad if he would amend. He might indeed do so by a little attention to revising and polishing his manuscript before it was committed to the printer; and the increased favorable effect upon his readers would amply compensate him for the additional labor. There is occasionally unnecessary earnestness of description and preparation, without any consequent end worthy of them, and needless repetitions of peculiarities of description, or particular illustrations of circumstances; thus, two or three times the Giant's Staircase is mentioned as being the steps down which the head of Faliero rolled, and we are told more than as many times, that the "leap of the winged lion is shortened," in the same or some similar phrase. There is also in the present work, what we consider to be a great blemish running through the character of the dialogue between the humbler personages of the story. We do not know indeed from personal observation how the lower class of Italians talk, but so far as we can judge from some little acquaintance with Italian writers, particularly some of their favorite comic dramatists, we should doubt if Mr. Cooper had given to their conversation exactly the right tone. They are sententious and fond of using proverbs in discourse; but we think they do not use the enigmatical, far-fetched, and figurative language attributed to the North American Indians; yet such appears to us, at times, the resemblance between some of the responses in "*The Bravo*," and the style of dialogue in some of our author's preceding works, that by substituting the "*Master of Life*" for "*St. Mark*," and making one or two slight corresponding changes, we could fancy ourselves again among the *Dacotahs*, the *Pawnee Loups*, or the *Delawares* of the hills.

On the whole, we have perused "*The Bravo*" with much pleasure, and esteem it such a production, as, if it do not add to the author's reputation, in the eyes of candid judges will not be considered as impairing it, and as containing, in addition to the fair amount of amusement and interest looked for in works of this class, much in elucidation of the author's particular design, that renders it far more valuable than most works of the kind.

ART. X. — *Annals for 1832.*

1. *The Token*. — The present is the fifth volume of this popular annual. It surpasses all its predecessors, in beauty of execution and in the variety and excellence of its contents. It has indeed the usual ingredients of good, bad, and indifferent. It has some prose, with little meaning, and more poetry with less. Many of the pieces, however, are excellent in their kind. "My Wife's Novel" is written in a vein of the happiest humor, and is of itself enough to fix the reputation of the volume. "The Blue Stocking" is a pleasant specimen of Miss Sedgewick's powers of close observation and witty remark. It is adorned by her usual purity and grace of style. No American writer surpasses this lady in the unbidden and indescribable proprieties of language, exquisite truth of sentiment, and in short all the fine qualities of mental and moral taste, so to speak, which form the basis of elegant literature. In general, the prose of "The Token" is vastly superior to the poetry. "The Theology of Nature," by Mr. Dewey, has a high moral tone, and is eloquently written. It augurs well for the public taste, that such writers find acceptance, amidst the gaiety and sentiment of a fashionable Annual. "The Bashful Man" is a feeble imitation of a fine piece, with the same title, in one of our school books. The attempts at wit are afflicting failures. It is matter of surprise that an editor, who usually displays so much taste, could admit a story, at once so weak and coarse. The engravings are generally excellent. We were particularly pleased with "Will he Bite?" "The Freshet," and "The Fairy Isle." "Byron at the Age of 19" is remarkable only for being accompanied by a set of verses which are remarkable for nothing. This stanza,

"Thy many hours of deep *unrest*
From wounded love and wounded pride;
Thy years, *unblest* and *unblest*
Unlifted mists and shadows hide,"

ought to have been, like Mr. Willis's "Music" and "Philosophy," *unwritten*.

2. *The Atlantic Souvenir*. — This is also *got up*, as the phrase is, in exquisite taste. Some of the writers are the same who contributed to "The Token." "Berkely Jail,"

by the author of "Hope Leslie," is an interesting story, told in a style highly characteristic of its author. "The Dunce and the Genius," by Mr. Paulding, besides being full of peculiar and admirable wit, has a moral value on account of its fine satirical hits at certain very absurd and much cherished notions about "genius," which have been the ruin of many self-conceited, but otherwise tolerably clever young gentlemen. Miss H. F. Gould has contributed several sprightly pieces. Indeed every thing from her pen is sure to possess a high degree of excellence. Most of her writings, at least those which we have seen, are of the playful kind, and in this she certainly meets with no common success. We have often been attracted by the poetry of Mrs. E. C. Embury. Her verses are harmonious and finished, and breathe the deepest spirit of feminine tenderness. The "Stanzas to a Sister" are finely conceived, and expressed with a delicacy, pathos, and truth to the feelings of nature, which none but a woman could have given them.

The engravings of this "Souvenir" are generally beautiful. We must, however, take some exceptions to "Isidore." This is copied from the engraving of "Lady Georgiana Agar Ellis," in the "National Portrait Gallery." They have taken this lady, who is said to be (and the picture just referred to vindicates the assertion) one of the most beautiful women in the dominions of his British Majesty, and given her (Heaven pardon them for it) dulness enough to spoil her good looks, and christened her Isidore (which they had no right to do without her consent and an act of Parliament), and tacked to her four sentimental and rather silly stanzas, which they *had* a right to do, if the spirit moved them thereunto. We have also another (Monsieur Tonson come again) "Lord Byron in early Youth," accompanied by some more verses, which, on the score of poetry, belong to the indifferent class, but are otherwise highly censurable.

"Was it thy fault, or fate? A future age
Will answer truly. Earth is now too rude,
In fitting characters thy name to page.
Thou hast offended in thy scornful mood,
The hypocrite, the bigot, and the prude."

Was it Byron's *fault* or *fate* that he lived in the daily and wilful transgression of the laws of God and man? Was it his

fault or *fate* that he constantly yielded to the wildest impulses of the passions, regardless of his fair fame, despising public opinion, reckless of the ties of kindred, of country, of home? But alas! "Earth is now too rude" to look with approbation on a miserable career like his. One man presumes to censure Byron's heartless sneers at virtue,—and *he* is a "hypocrite." Another ventures to put in a demurrer to his scoffs at religion,—and *he* is a "bigot." Pure and delicate woman shrinks with horror from the contemplation of his abandoned and unbounded libertinism,—and she is a "prude."

"Thou hadst, to heal

Thy wounded spirit, in its *fond appeal* [?]

A mother's blasting taunts; in thy bright way,
The ban-dogs bayed, till scourged with lash of steel;

Kindred fell off, friends failed, and *she*, the ray
That should have blessed thy home, in cold clouds quench'd
thy day."

False sentiment generally produces confusion and absurdity in language. To be a good writer, a man must be a good thinker; that is, the *morale* of his thinking must be correct. There is truth, sober, deep truth, in the ancient maxim, that a good orator must be a *good man*. Mr. Moore gives an edifying picture of the *fond appeals* which the young Lord was in the habit of making to his unhappy mother. "Scourged with *lash of steel*." A *lash of steel* would have been a most suitable accompaniment, in reason as well as rhyme, to this same "fond appeal"; but we are inclined to think that lashes are not usually made of that material. "And *she*, the ray," &c.; how a "ray" can "quench" a man's "day," in "cold clouds," the poet did not pause to tell us. The purport of this passage is equally wide of truth. A man is responsible for his own character, whatever may have been his situation in early youth. If he is a bad man, in the maturity of his intellectual powers, it is his "fault," and not his "fate." Remove this principle, and you remove the corner-stone of the great social edifice. But a greater blemish in this piece (if possible) is the unmanly taunt thrown out against Lady Byron. Ever since the unhappy catastrophe which broke up the ill-starred union of Lord and Lady Byron, small poets, who have just capacity enough to mimic the false sentiment and maudlin misanthropy of the

bard, have vented their foolish spleen upon this accomplished woman. Now, how nice must that moral feeling be, how lofty and chivalrous must that spirit of honor be, which can sympathize with the self-inflicted or affected woes of an ungovernable debauchee, but has no sigh to spare, no tear of pity to shed, for the secret agonies, the *unspoken* and unspeakable pangs of a virtuous, lovely, and noble-hearted woman, a disappointed wife! It is time that such paltry cant — that plague-spot in the literature of the present age — should give place to sentiments of truth, justice, and honor. It is time that poets, in whose souls the gentler virtues of chivalry are supposed to reign with an especial power, should cease to insult the name of a retired and defenceless lady, for the sake of palliating the manifold wickedness of a literary favorite.

The above are the two principal Annuals. We have on our desk also several others. "*The Christian Offering*" is useful in design, and highly interesting in matter. It does not come forth in the splendid array of "*The Token*" or "*The Souvenir*," but will be an acceptable present to the lovers of correct taste and good moral feeling. "*The Pearl*," published in Philadelphia, is a pleasant volume, recommended by good taste and purity of sentiment. "*The Amaranth*," published in Newburyport, and hastily done, has several excellent contributors. We were particularly pleased with two pieces, by the Rev. Mr. Withington, "*Whitefield*," and "*Advice to an Infidel*." They are full of rich thought, expressed in strong and felicitous language, and, excepting a few carelessly constructed sentences, are every way worthy of the reputation of their author.

ART. XI. — *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the Year 1832.* Boston. Gray & Bowen. 12mo. pp. 312.

LET not our readers smile at the subject chosen for this review; or, if they do, let it not be a smile of derision, but of complacency; like that, a little ambiguous it may be, which we bestow upon some good-natured, talkative friend, when he intrudes unwelcome; but whom we would not repel, since we can better spare a better man. An Almanac is a

companion ready at all times ; and we can better spare a better book. It has something new to tell us every day ; but not always the most pleasing news. It tells the industrious out-door laborer how many months he must wait for the lingering dawn of every day, before he can ply his brawny arms in their accustomed labor. It sometimes leaves the merchant in no enviable suspense, lest the tide should rush into his richly stored warehouse and spoil his goods. It puts the timid evening visitor, having already worn out his welcome, to his wit's end, how to keep open the eyes of his host, till it announces that the queen of night is ready to enlighten his homeward path. Not only does it tell us what is and is to be, but informs us also about much that has been ; when some great men were born, and when they died ; when one nation was convulsed by revolution, and another became subject to foreign sway, and a third was triumphing in victory and conquest. Above all, it astonishes the ignorant and delights the scientific, by foretelling various celestial phenomena, and marking with precision the moments of their occurrence and continuance and termination ; thus revealing to us, in their issues, some of the most sublime operations of Deity in the material universe.

As every one must have an Almanac, some ingenuity has been displayed in hitting the taste of different classes of readers. Hence there are, or have been, in this country, for example, Almanacs and Calendars, with these various titles ; Health, Temperance, Anti-masonic, Churchman's, Clergyman's, Farmer's, New England Farmer's, Mechanic's, Christian's Almanac, and Christian's Calendar, Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar, and others perhaps, the names of which we have forgotten or never seen. There is no Physician's or Lawyer's Almanac, we believe ; though members of the latter profession have sometimes been charged with poaching for anecdotes in those repositories, so abundant as some of them are in stores of this kind. For we recollect some years ago an eminent barrister chiding a younger brother (who had made use, in his argument to the jury, of an illustration not the most delicate) by asking, "out of what old almanac the gentleman had picked up that story."

The American Almanac well deserves its comprehensive name. The astronomical department is again executed by Mr. R. T. Paine, a gentleman distinguished alike for the delight

which he takes in that department of science, and for the accuracy of his results. This part of the Almanac is adapted, both in the Calendar and in the accounts of the Celestial Phenomena, to the various portions of the United States.

The Second Part of the volume for the present year contains the last census, copious statistical accounts of the United States and single States, pertaining to government, religion, education, &c., besides notices of foreign countries, of which more is promised hereafter.

The information has been derived as well from private correspondence as from public documents, and embraces very little matter found in the preceding volumes, except on topics subject to annual change. This, with the two preceding volumes, forms a valuable record of various matters, which give it a just claim to that portion of its title in which it is called the *Repository of Useful Knowledge*.

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- ART. XII. — 1. *Elements of Algebra*, by BOURDON. Translated from the French for the Use of Colleges and Schools. Boston. Hilliard, Gray, Little, & Wilkins. 1831. 8vo. pp. 304.
2. *Elements of Algebra*, by WILLIAM SMYTH, A. M., Professor of Mathematics in Bowdoin College. Portland. Shirley & Hyde. 1830. 12mo. pp. 264.

BOURDON'S ALGEBRA displays more of the spirit of modern analysis than any other elementary work on the subject that we have yet seen. The thoroughness and minuteness with which he conducts his investigations, must render him most useful to the student that is about to launch into the higher branches of the science. For he suffers no case of a demonstration to escape his examination, and he does not make use of any proposition, the truth of which he has not previously established. His processes are for the most part direct, and he seldom indulges in the ingenious devices to which mathematicians have recourse for abbreviating their writings and giving them a polish. These artifices have, we fear, too often glided into our elementary works; with all their brilliancy, they are to the inexperienced eye but monsters mysterious in their origin, that seem to guide to truth rather in

defiance, than by the aid, of reason ; and we think them to be a great source of the dislike for mathematics at this time prevalent among the young men of our country. The student in the science of analysis, in that science which professes to teach not merely the knowledge of facts, but the art of acquiring such knowledge, is not to be satisfied with mere demonstrations and solutions, however intelligible, but wishes to learn how to solve problems and make discoveries for himself. Now, in every branch of mathematics there is some one general method by which nearly all the investigations may be conducted. This may often lead to long calculations and prolix demonstrations ; but of what importance is this compared with the consideration that the general method requires but little more for its application than mechanical dexterity ? And why not sacrifice brevity and it may be even clearness of demonstration, rather than confuse the learner by departing from the system which is sufficient for all the ordinary purposes of the science, and which can never perplex, though it may sometimes fatigue him ?

Bourdon introduces his *Algebra* with an explanation of the different fundamental operations as indicated or performed by means of letters and other symbols. This part of the work is by no means sufficiently well defined and illustrated for beginners ; the author seems to suppose his reader already familiar with the mechanical processes, and gives him only an abstract demonstration of them. His explanation of the method by which a reflecting mind might arrive at the rule for dividing one compound quantity by another, deserves a careful perusal by instructors in the science. For he has omitted, in his demonstration, to arrange his terms in any particular order, and yet he has preserved the simplicity of the reasoning. Now any thing like this arrangement, that tends to give an artificial character to a demonstration, ought to be carefully avoided. The subject of division, however, has, we think, been enlarged upon by our author more than is useful in an elementary work.

In the second division of his book, Bourdon investigates Problems of the First Degree. The only mode of elimination which he here illustrates, is that by addition and subtraction, and he elucidates the subject most fully by means of examples, before he proceeds to the consideration of the particular cases that may occur. The first case that he then

considers is that of negative results ; and he is led by induction to the general principles, that these indicate some incorrectness in the original equation, and that this incorrectness may always be rectified by a change of sign. He next proceeds to a general discussion of all the cases that may be met with in equations and problems of the first degree ; and this part of the work seems to us rather curious than useful. For the nature of the result is always, in these cases, sufficiently evident from the very enunciation of the problem ; and were it not so, the infrequency of these cases is too great to allow them to occupy the space they do in the work before us.

The Third Part begins with the Extraction of the Square Root and the calculation of Surds, and the author seems aware that a thorough acquaintance with these subjects can be obtained only by long practice. He therefore hurries from them to the consideration of Quadratic Equations ; and he applies his principles for resolving these to several well selected problems. His "General Discussion of the Equation of the Second Degree" is most complete and satisfactory ; yet we fear that its perfection will be lost upon most of our American students. Much of it, however, is necessary for the important section that succeeds, on Maxima and Minima.

From Equations of the Second Degree, Bourdon proceeds, in his Fourth Part, to the Indeterminate Analysis of the First and Second Degree. This analysis is most important to a practical mathematician, and ought to find a place in every work on algebra. Bourdon has given it a dress, which renders its application as simple as that of the Resolution of Equations, and has himself applied it to several problems.

The Fifth Part contains the Formation of Powers and the Extraction of Roots of any degree whatever. The demonstration of the Binomial Theorem which he has here given, does not appear to us sufficiently simple, though it may be the most elementary one. The theory of combinations and permutations, on which it is founded, is to most minds extremely obscure and intricate.

The Sixth and last Part contains a few Chapters on Arithmetical and Geometrical Progressions, and the work concludes with a simple and useful elucidation of the theory of Logarithms and of the method of using them. At the end of

the Algebra is annexed a most judicious note on Continued Fractions, and an excellent collection of "Questions for Practice."

But with all the claims that this work has to be considered the best work on Algebra that has yet appeared, we do not think it so well adapted to the present wants of our country, as the more unassuming treatise of Professor Smyth.

No work that we have seen appears to us better adapted than this latter one "to the purposes of elementary instruction." Its explanations are unaffectedly clear and simple, its examples are numerous, and selected with care, and it comprehends all that is necessary for any but the professed mathematician.

ART. XIII. — *An Introduction to Natural Philosophy ; designed as a Text-Book for the Use of the Students in Yale College.* In 2 vols. Vol. I. — *Mechanics and Hydrostatics. Compiled from various Authorities.* By DENISON OL MSTED, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. New Haven. Hezekiah Howe. 1831. 8vo. pp. 346.

THIS volume contains the "Mathematical Elements of Mechanics," and "Practical Applications of the Principles of Mechanics to the Arts and to the Phenomena of Nature, and Hydrostatics." In the First Part, which contains the "Mathematical Elements," the following subjects are discussed. The laws of motion, gravity, the ascent and descent of bodies near the earth's surface, the composition and resolution of motion, the centre of gravity, the collision of bodies, the motion of projectiles, the mechanical powers, the motion of bodies upon inclined planes, and the doctrine of the pendulum. The whole is illustrated by a copious collection of examples for practice, which seem well adapted to convey clear and precise knowledge to the learner.

The Second Part contains practical observations on the principles already discussed, and their application to the art of gunnery, to machinery, to the regulation of machinery, with a chapter on "Friction," and another on "The Strength of Materials and the Stability of Structures."

The remainder of the volume is devoted to Hydrostatics.

In it are discussed, liquids or non-elastic fluids in equilibrium, liquids or non-elastic fluids in motion, the cohesion and resistance of fluids, capillary attraction, the undulation of fluids, and the formation of waves.

The author's plan appears to be well executed, and we cordially recommend the work to those who are not desirous of extending their studies beyond the simple elementary portions of mechanical science.

ART. XIV. — *Church Music, consisting of New and Original Anthems, Motets, and Chants, for Public Worship.*
By CH. ZEUNER, Organist to St. Paul's Church and to the Handel and Haydn Society. Boston. Richardson & Lord. 1831. pp. 151.

"BUT the grand end which the liberal arts are appointed to subserve, is the harmonious education, the ennoblement of the soul. For, as I conceive, the happiest state of man's intellectual nature must mainly consist in the most perfect harmony attainable of his ardent feelings, the clearness of his faculties, and the agreement of both with the determinations of an enlightened will.

"I have thought it not improper to say thus much of my idea of arts and their purposes, because, if the intention of the Creator had been only what the author above cited has told us, [i. e. the amusement of mankind] art would be no more to man than the thistle to the ass."

From these passages, which are taken from the Preface to the work under consideration, and which we think are forcibly if not beautifully written, it would seem that the author takes more elevated views of the character and dignity of his art, than is common in this country at the present day. He assigns to music a rank among the fine arts, and believes it capable of doing something more than merely contributing to the gratification of sense. He thinks that music, like its kindred arts, painting, sculpture, and architecture, is capable of acting upon the *mind*, and of contributing its share towards the moral education of man. It seems to us, that it has been too common in this country, to degrade music from its station among the liberal arts, to the level of mere sensual enjoyments. This circumstance has exerted a very powerful influ-

ence upon our sacred music, and caused it to lose almost entirely its character as a means of adding to the solemnity of public worship, and of raising and sustaining the devotional feeling of the worshipping assembly; so that it has degenerated into a mere exhibition of awkward attempts to surprise by the execution of music, difficult enough to be sure, but with little or no intrinsic merit. In its best estate our church music seems now to be thought of only as a pleasant interruption of the more severe exercise of prayer, or an agreeable recreation after the fatigue of listening to a long sermon.

We cannot help thinking that Mr. Zeuner is right in his views, and we hope that he will contribute something towards raising his art to the dignity and estimation which it deserves. We recommend the whole of his Preface to our musical readers, as containing more just criticism on music as an art, and more judicious advice concerning the practice of singing, than we have ever met with any where else.

As a composer of sacred music the author appears to us to have much merit. His work consists principally of *chants*, and those which we have examined appear to possess originality, and are composed in a pure and correct taste. The harmonies, without being too difficult of execution for choirs, are often wonderfully rich and effective. We sincerely hope that the success of this work may be such as to induce the author to continue his publications.

ART. XV. — *A Summary of the Law and Practice of Real Actions; with an Appendix of Practical Forms.* By ASAHEL STEARNS. The Second Edition, with Additions. Hallowell. Glazier, Masters, & Co. 1831. 8vo. pp. 495.

THE law of Real Actions as existing in Massachusetts, and in other states following in her steps, has till lately been a subject of difficulty to the student and the younger members of the profession. Deriving the law and the precedents from the common law of England, it has been a serious question, how far, in the circumstances under which we are placed, that common law has been adopted by us. It was not till some years after these shores were first settled, that the question was much considered. For the early proceedings in

all our courts of justice were extremely simple, being divested of almost every thing technical, and each party being allowed to tell his story pretty much in his own way. It was but little more than the settlement of family difficulties according to the equitable views of the parent.

But as population increased and real estate became more valuable, and the proceedings in court more regular, greater regard was paid to the substance and to the forms of law. Discretion yielded to authority; not the authority of the person, but of those wise rules that had been established from age to age to guard the rights of all.

As it regards the New England States, correct legal practice had no existence before the eighteenth century, and even then was of gradual growth. One claiming property in land would commence his action for a fee simple, and summon the other party to answer in a *plea of the case*. But after some years, writs of entry were introduced; and it will probably be found by an examination of the old declarations, that they never were in use until the time when regularly educated lawyers appeared in the courts. During the present century, by the efforts of Chief Justice Parsons and his successors, the practice in this branch of the law has been brought to a good degree of perfection.

The action of ejectment in England under a feigned lease entry and ouster, which had its origin with Chief Justice Rolle, about the middle of the seventeenth century, was never used in New England, if we except a short period in Massachusetts, during the reign of James the Second. But in New York it was early introduced, and is still preserved, with much other cumbrous practice that has never prevailed at the north.

In New England the ancient law of Real Actions has been retained, stripped of numerous unnecessary refinements, and a host of idle appendages. And probably there are no precedents, we know of none, in which there is greater simplicity and plainness, than in those used in New England, in real actions.

The first edition of Mr. Stearns's work was published in 1824, when he was Law Professor in the University at Cambridge. The substance of it was delivered in lectures to the law students of the University. It is an elementary treatise, and is deservedly esteemed by the profession. He has stated,

with great clearness of style and method, some of the fundamental principles of the law of real property, and of "the ancient remedies, their form and structure, with the pleadings and evidence applicable to them." He has also given an interesting history of the early practice in Massachusetts, and has appended a large number of practical forms. These forms are of the concise and technical character contained in the Register and in Rastell, to which our author has very properly had frequent recourse.

Mr. Stearns in his modest Preface remarks, that his work is designed chiefly for students and the younger members of the bar. But it is valuable also to those more advanced in the profession; and even those who are best grounded in this kind of learning may recur to it with advantage and improvement. It has the merit of being the earliest treatise on the subject in this country, and of more than fulfilling all that the author promises; and though designed chiefly for Massachusetts and the other states that retain the old common law remedies in real actions, it will be found useful to the profession elsewhere. It is still used as a text-book in the new arrangement of studies at the Law School of Harvard University.

The second edition contains numerous additions, and embraces the cases decided since the publication of the first edition. These decisions are taken chiefly from Greenleaf's Reports of the Supreme Court in Maine, the New Hampshire Reports, Peters's Reports of the Supreme Court of the United States, Mason's Reports of the Circuit Court, containing the decisions of Mr. Justice Story, and Pickering's Reports of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. A Table of Cases cited is prefixed; the want of which was felt in the former edition.

Three new precedents are introduced in the practical forms; one a *declaration* in an action by the assignee of the mortgagee setting forth the mortgage deed and assignment with *profert*; another in an action by a mortgagee against mortgagor, setting forth the mortgage deed and condition; and a third, a *plea* that the demandant, who sues as minister, has resigned his office pending the writ. The second declaration is taken in substance from Mr. Jackson's valuable treatise. Mr. Stearns has retained in this edition the general form of declaring in an action by the mortgagee against the mortga-

gor, alleging simply the disseizin, and counting upon a seizin in fee and *in mortgage*, without stating the mode of acquiring the seizin. A learned writer in the *American Jurist*, who reviewed Mr. Jackson's treatise, suggested that this form might be bad on special demurrer; but the decisions of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts seem to have established its sufficiency. That lawyer is a benefactor to his profession and the public, who is able to shorten legal precedents, and still retain every thing substantial.

ART. XVI. — *The Light of Nature Pursued*. By ABRAHAM TUCKER, Esq. From the Second London Edition, Revised and Corrected. Together with some Account of the Life of the Author, by Sir H. P. St. John Mildmay, Bart., M. P. 4 vols. 8vo. Cambridge. Hilliard & Brown. 1831.

It does not enter into our plan to give much space to notices of reprints of foreign works of known and long established reputation. Tucker's "*Light of Nature*" might perhaps be regarded as an exception, in some respects, to this rule, if we had room for a full examination of its character and merits; because, though familiar to a few readers, and extravagantly admired by them, it comes before the reading public generally, in this country, for the first time, and almost as a new work. It is a philosophical treatise, interspersed with the happiest touches of humor and eccentricity on man, his duties and expectations, and his relations to God and eternity. The author was a private gentleman of independent fortune, shrewd and good-tempered, mingling but little either in the political or theological disputes of the day, writing at his leisure and as the humor seized him, with but little regard either to the connexion or the consequences. This accounts for, and explains at the same time, his excellences, his faults, and his defects. By readers of a kindred genius and temper few books are perused with more interest and satisfaction than this, or recurred to with so much pleasure, or so frequently; and few books have done so much to help plagiarists to a reputation for smartness and originality. Mr. Tucker, however, must continue to share the fate of most persons of strong and marked peculiarities; those who do not like him,

are apt to be disgusted with his occasional extravagances, and to reject even his jests, in some instances, and his odd and curious illustrations, as ill-timed and impertinent. On the whole, candid and judicious critics will not say that he has done much to enlarge the boundaries of human knowledge. It is chiefly on his merits as a wit and humorist, and as a practical writer, that his reputation must stand. Much credit is due to the publishers, who have furnished a cheap and neat edition of a work which will be eagerly read by many, and which can hardly be read without affording both pleasure and instruction.

ART. XVII. — *The Calhoun Doctrine, or State Nullification discussed.* Originally published in the "Irishman and Southern Democrat." By a DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN. Charleston, S. C. 1831. 12mo. pp. 33.

"THE doctrines of Nullification," as they are commonly called, which, after for a time threatening the union of these States, were effectually put down by Mr. Webster in the Senate, in January, 1830, are becoming more thoroughly understood, as their origin, motives, and history are becoming more known. This pamphlet, written in South Carolina, and written with pungency as well as power, furnishes additional materials for their elucidation. What was known before was, that a sort of combination was begun on the subject in May, 1828, at the lodgings of General Hayne in Washington, which was afterwards exposed in a correspondence between Mr. Mitchell, General Hayne, and other members of the South Carolina delegation, who constituted the meetings thus held; that in the summer following the impulse thus given was felt in meetings held in Colleton District, at Edgefield Court-House, &c., advising, as they said in the report of the first assembly, "*an attitude of open resistance to the laws of the Union*;" that in the autumn, Mr. Calhoun so far forgot his pride of place and his duty to the Union, as to write for a committee of the Legislature of South Carolina, the remarkable "*Exposition and Protest*," which, as the author of the pamphlet now before us truly says, "has hitherto served as the text-book for Nullification;" and, finally, that in the session of 1829-30, a vio-

lent attempt was made to bring these doctrines forward in Congress, and give them countenance and currency under at least the implied sanction of the Senate ; on which occasion the great debate took place between General Hayne and Mr. Webster, which reduced the doctrines of Nullification, before so threatening, to the rank of an idle and exploded theory. So far we knew before. The present pamphlet contains further developements and explanations, — particularly on Mr. Calhoun's course of policy ; the cause of the depression of property at the South, and the attempts of Mr. Calhoun to conciliate to himself the passions of those who were thus suffering under losses, which he would persuade them were to be retrieved by means within the reach of the power of South Carolina, as a sovereign state, nullifying some of the laws of the Union.

The concluding remarks are striking ; and are as true as they are striking.

"It is among the most lamentable events of our history, that this heresy should ever have found countenance. It is not good to become familiar with evil. Its presence should always be shocking. New disputes may revive this discussion, and the opinions and arguments of the present day, although repudiated and refuted, will be dragged forth to suit some emergency, in the same manner as the oft rejected objections to the adoption of the present Constitution have been newly vamped up, and presented to shake the faith of the rising generation in our beautiful and beneficent system of government. It is not among the least of the lamented evils of this dangerous creed, that it has perhaps for ever cancelled all that admiration and kindness, with which the rising fortunes of the Vice-President were hailed by his whole country. It was indeed an evil hour in which hopes so bright, anticipations so elevated, and a destiny so full of honor and of fame, were all sacrificed upon the altar of this 'strange God,' " pp. 32, 33.

The whole pamphlet is worth reading, and contains facts and illustrations to which we at the North are little accustomed ; and though the great power and distinction must always belong to him, whose motto may well be, — *Diram qui contudit Hydram*, — still the argument against Nullification will be read with interest even after the greater argument in Mr. Webster's speech has become a settled and familiar article in our political faith.

ART. XVIII. — *Mr. Tuckerman's Eighth Semi-Annual Report of his Service as a Minister at Large in Boston.* Boston. Gray & Bowen. 12mo. pp. 48.

THE labors of Dr. Tuckerman, as missionary to the poor, are not the first attempts which have been made in the city of Boston for their moral and religious improvement. It is several years since a society was formed for that express purpose; and a system of operations was commenced, which, if not so judicious and thorough, as could have been desired, was not, we have reason to think, without essential benefit. It is believed, however, that no former efforts have excited so much public interest, and been attended with such beneficial results, as the services of Dr. Tuckerman. He has been employed in this mission for a little more than five years, during which time he has been eminently prospered in his labors, and has observed the most gratifying results in proof of their utility. His object, as we understand it, from this and former reports, is not to imbue the minds of his charge with the distinctive spirit and principles of any of the various religious sects which divide our community; he does not go out into the lanes and alleys and dark places of the city with the quixotic project of gathering recruits for any theological creed; but, simply as a minister of Christ and a friend of man, he wishes to urge the plain truths of that Gospel, which was first preached to the poor, and which is so rich in consolation for all the miseries which afflict our suffering nature. At the same time that he aims to impart pure and Scriptural religious instruction, he does not neglect the temporal wants of the poor who fall under his ministerial care. He has performed valuable services, by doing something for those who were unable to do any thing for themselves; and still more so, by aiding the industrious, but unfortunate; by giving counsel to the perplexed; by encouraging the desponding; and by presenting favorable opportunities to those who were able and ready to exert themselves, but who, from sickness, accident, or disappointment, were destitute of the means.

We regard a ministry of this character as one of the most efficient agents in social improvement and civilization, to say nothing of its religious influences. We cannot but wonder that far more interest is not felt in the subject. There is a

wide field not only in Boston, but in all our large cities, for the ablest services of many missionaries, possessing the good judgment, enlightened zeal, and deep devotion to the interests of the poor, which characterize the author of the present Report.

In this, as well as in former Reports, Dr. Tuckerman enters into very thorough discussions of the causes, evils, and remedies of pauperism, and enforces his reasonings by statements of appropriate facts, most of which have come under his own observation. We think no one can read these Reports without a deep impression of the importance of the cause which they advocate, and of respect for the head and heart of the writer.

ART. XIX. — *An Address delivered before the Boston Sunday School Society on the Celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Sunday School Institution, at the Federal Street Church. September 14, 1831.* By EZRA S. GANNETT. Boston. Gray & Bowen. 12mo. pp. 42.

WE have not seen any Discourse called forth by the interesting occasion of the Sunday School Jubilee, which, upon the whole, seems to us more appropriate and impressive, than that of which we have given the title above.

After a brief history of the origin of Sunday Schools and of the labors of their principal founder in England, Mr. Robert Raikes, the writer proceeds to enumerate several distinct claims, which they present to the public favor and patronage, and then notices, with great fairness and discrimination, some of the objections which have been alleged against them. We cannot name the volume, which, in so small a compass, gives such a clear and just view of the real purposes and practical utility of Sunday Schools, as is contained in a few pages of this pamphlet. We think, that if any one is disposed to doubt whether the institution, whose merits are set forth by Mr. Gannett, can be conducted without reference to sectarian principles, and in a manner at once productive of eminent advantage to both parents and children, and free from all evils, this Address will convince him, that his scruples are without foundation, and that his objections are good, not against the institution itself, but only against the circum-

stances which may sometimes have been accidentally connected with it.

It would be a good service to put a copy of this Address into the hands of every Sunday School teacher in the country. No denomination of Christians will find in it any thing offensive to their peculiar views. It breathes a spirit of warm and glowing piety, and of fervid zeal in the cause of religious instruction, which no reader can fail to respect, and in some measure, at least, to feel and to make his own.

ART. XX. — 1. *A Critical Review of the Orthography of Dr. Webster's Series of Books for Systematic Instruction in the English Language; including his former Spelling-Book, and the Elementary Spelling-Book, compiled by Aaron Ely, and published under the name of Noah Webster, LL. D.* By LYMAN COBB. New York. 1831. 8vo. pp. 56.

2. *A Method of Acquiring a full Knowledge of the English Language, propounded at their Invitation, by A. B. JOHNSON, Utica, August 10, 1831, before the New York State Lyceum.* Utica. Northway & Porter. 1831. pp. 16.

WE received Mr. Cobb's work after our remarks upon "English Lexicography in the United States" were in the press; and it amply vindicates the caution with which we have spoken of Mr. Webster's claims to improvements in orthography. It shows Mr. Webster's great want of uniformity in his successive publications; and if this were all, we should not lay very great stress upon it, though it would justly lead to a suspicion, that the author was governed rather by temporary caprices, than by any fixed and permanent rules. But when we are furnished with irrefragable proofs, as in Mr. Cobb's Review of Mr. Webster's quarto Dictionary, of very numerous "*discrepancies* in the orthography of the definitions and the text," in the same work, the subject comes very fairly before the public, and there is no reason why the whole truth should not be told.

"When I commenced," says Mr. Cobb, "the exposition of the discrepancies in the orthography of the definitions and text of

the American Dictionary, I intended to show all which I had discovered ; but they are so numerous that the limits of this review will not permit me to pursue the exposition farther. I have already shown between *seven* and *eight hundred* discrepancies of this kind, and have noted about *five hundred* others." p. 18.

Having compared this Dictionary with others, in respect to orthography, Mr. Cobb pronounces its *defects*, *inconsistencies*, and *contradictions* to be much *more numerous* than those in any other dictionary.

This pamphlet exhibits the proofs of the most thorough examination into a minute though important subject, which it has ever fallen to our lot to witness. It is a document which will be of unspeakable value to any one who may hereafter undertake a new English Dictionary, or become responsible for the literary execution in the republication of such as are now used.

Mr. Cobb has reviewed for the same purpose, and in the same thorough manner, Mr. Webster's American Spelling-Book, and the Elementary Spelling-Book, published under his name. We know nothing of these books, to our shame it may be, far-famed and widely extended as they are, except what Mr. Cobb has told us. His Review is well worthy the attention of the author or proprietor of these Spelling-Books ; for, however unwelcome the truths that are uttered, none have more reason to be grateful than those whose duty and interest it is to render such elementary works as immaculate as possible.

Mr. Johnson's title-page promises too much ; but there have been titles to books pertaining to the knowledge of language, which promised more. We met some years since with the title of a book written by one *Dalgarno*, of Great Britain, and published in 1661, which, translated from the Latin, runs thus : " The Art of Signs ; or an Universal Character and Philosophical Language, in which men speaking different languages may be able, by studying it for the space of two weeks, to express their thoughts, either by writing or speech, no less intelligibly than individuals of the same community in their vernacular tongue ; by which also the young may acquire the principles of philosophy and true logic with much greater ease and despatch, than from the common treatises of philosophers."

Aside however from the exaggerated title of Mr. Johnson's Discourse, and from the strange notion that a dictionary is a book from which we are to get a full knowledge of *language*, and also from the collocation and use of words in the title-page, which, if not ungrammatical, are very peculiar, there is an independence and ingenuity in the Discourse itself, which are deserving of notice.

He would not destroy the present alphabetical arrangement of words, or any thing which belongs to lexicography as it now exists; but he would add what he calls words in *sets*; — as, “knowledge, knowing, know, knowingly.” Still, as such words are found near each other he does not insist much upon these regular derivatives being placed in close connexion. He is in search of deeper treasures. To show what *cobweb* is adjectively, he would note *araneous*; *summer* — *estival*; *iron* — *chalybeate*, *ferruginous*, *ferreous*. Again, the adjective or substantive should be followed by a verb of corresponding meaning; as *naked* by *denude*, *abscess* by *imposthume*. So also by the adverb; as, *praise* should have *eulogistically*, and *war*, *belligerently*. Still farther, he lays great stress upon correlatives and opposites, negatives and affirmatives, — and synonyms. Here are a few of them which our readers may class for themselves. *Horizontal*, *vertical*; *analogous*, *anomalous*; *weeping*, *illachrymable*; *heathen*, *ethnic*. Once more, a dictionary should collect together *modifications*, as he calls them, of other words, branching out as follows: *death*, — *euthanasia*, *posthumous*, *demise*, *defunct*, &c.

O shades of *Priscian* and *Sanctius*! rescue us from that “art in impious pharmacy,” which mingles with our wholesome Saxon food all sorts of foreign deleterious drugs of ancient and modern times, which the healthy philologer cannot choose but nauseate and dash from his lips.

ERRATA IN NO. I.

Advertisement, page 1, line 18, for *pronounced* read *procured*.
 Review, “ 18, “ 33, after *not* read *so*.

NOTE.

WE have received a communication from Dr. Waterhouse, the author of the valuable work entitled "Essay on Junius," &c., which was respectfully noticed in the first number of this Review. The object of the communication is to prove,

I. That the *Miscellaneous Letters*, ascribed to *Junius*, are not *universally admitted to be genuine*; that most of them are *doubtful*, and some of them *spurious*; at the head of which last class are those signed *Poplicola* and *Anti-Sejanus*.

II. To impugn some of the facts adduced by the Reviewer, which favor the supposition that Earl Temple was the author of *Junius*.

Dr. Waterhouse denies that Temple wrote the "Enquiry into the Conduct of a late Right Honorable Commoner," (the Reviewer says it was "in substance the work of Temple,") and affirms that it was written by *Humphrey Cotes*. Dr. Waterhouse denies also, that Temple joined *Wilkes* in writing the *North-Briton*, and affirms that all the assistance he gave to *Wilkes* was in money and in good advice; and that the "Patriot" never failed to take the first, and to neglect the last. Dr. Waterhouse says further, that Lord Temple (he being *Junius*) could not have denied in print a knowledge of his own brother, nor have spoken in such a shameful manner of his sister's husband, under the signature of *Poplicola*, nor have written in the style of indecency which marks the closing paragraph of *Anti-Sejanus*; and, finally, that the rupture between *Chatham* and *Temple* did not result in *bitter enmity*, but in a *degree of estrangement* which fell much short of bitter enmity.

Dr. Waterhouse cites some authorities for these counter statements, together with illustrations from contemporaneous history, and gives his own arguments upon those authorities and illustrations. It is a very interesting communication, and we should gladly insert it as a discussion of facts concerning which the author of the Essay, the Reviewer, and the Editor can have no other motive than that of ascertaining the truth, except so far as either may be influenced by an opinion already formed and not founded on an estimate of the whole evidence in the case, which after all is full of difficulties. But as we have not room for Dr. Waterhouse's communication, and cannot do justice to it, without proceeding to a discussion which would interfere with the leading design of our work, we hope he will favor the public with his views and proofs upon the subjects in dispute in some other way. They would make a valuable Appendix to his book upon *Junius*, and would be perused with avidity by many readers.

THE EDITOR.

FOREIGN LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

REVISTA BIMESTRE CUBANA.—This is a remarkable phenomenon, — a periodical published every two months in a Spanish colony, and marked with a degree of vigor and literary taste and knowledge, entirely unknown in any similar attempts made in the Peninsula itself. It is published in Havanna, and we have received the numbers for June, August, and October, 1831. The articles in the first number on the History of the Island of Cuba, in the second on Maury's *Espagne Poétique* and the Life of Jovellanos, and in the third on Spanish Synonyms and *Campomanes*, are written with a marked ability. The rest are generally valuable, and the short notices at the end give a view of the present state of the Spanish press, which cannot, we think, be found elsewhere; certainly not in any publications coming from Spain Proper. The whole is a desirable and important contribution to our stock of knowledge and literary discussion, because it deals with materials and topics not elsewhere noticed, or noticed imperfectly and clumsily. It is published in some degree under the protection of the *Real Sociedad Patriótica*; but its editor, we believe, is *Don Mariano Cubi i Soler*, whose excellent works for the study of different languages are well known in this country.

REVUE ENCYCLOPÉDIQUE.—From an advertisement to this work for September last, it seems that it has been transferred by *M. Julien* to new editors, who ascribe to him the honor of having conceived and thus far in a good degree executed the plan of collecting together from various sources what was most remarkable in literature and science, in different languages, and embodying the scattered materials in his work; and consider him entitled, as the founder of the *Revue* which opens a common *rendezvous* for fragmentary compositions, to the thanks of the learned world. The plan of the *Revue*, it appears, will not be hastily modified, though it will be considerably extended from one period to another. The new editors promise to render more complete their monthly account of books, in order to realize the primary object of the work; and to analyse and pronounce their judgment upon the principal publications in all languages, and thus to save studious men from tedious researches, immense reading, and expensive correspondence. A promise is given that the next number shall contain in detail the views of the present editors upon the *desiderata* concerning science, and the character which they wish their collections to assume. The advertisement is signed, Hippolyte CARNOT.

ALGEMEINE GESCHICHTE. UNIVERSAL HISTORY, by CHARLES DE ROTTECK, Professor at the University, and Member of the Academy, at Munich. Seventh edition. Friburg. 1830. 7 vols. 8vo. — "This work," says the *Revue Encyclopédique*, "is one of the most remarkable of our times; of which no other proof is needed, but the avidity with which it has been received. There have been sold, in seven editions, more than ten thousand copies. The literary journals of Germany have all given it a marked attention. The following is a summary account of its plan and division. Three volumes are devoted to antiquity; the fourth extends from Theodosius to Charlemagne; the fifth, from Charlemagne to the end of the Crusades; the sixth, from that epoch to the discovery of America. This M. Rotteck marks as the beginning of the modern epoch; he then continues the history from the discovery of the two Indias to the peace of Westphalia; then to the French Revolution; and closes with the seventh volume at the formation of the Holy Alliance. A Table of Contents forms a small additional volume. The Introduction contains profound views upon history itself, the accessory knowledge, the sources, and the manner in which a writer should draw from them. It contains also excellent views of chronology and geography. Each of the periods is preceded by an indication of the sources to which M. Rotteck has had recourse, and a short chronological discussion. After the recitals there occur, in each volume, general considerations upon the civilization of governments, on religions, arts, and sciences. We mention as particularly excellent the History of Mahomet; the grandeur of the Popes; the account of the Crusades; reflections on Chivalry, and on the armies of the middle age. The thirty years' war is admirably summed up; it is marked throughout by rapidity, clearness, and, above all, by critical excellence. The author presents history under an aspect truly philosophical." — *Revue Encyclopédique*, July, 1831.*

MM. CHAMPOLLION the Younger, and H. ROSELLINI, propose the following work, as its title is given in the *French Bulletin* for March, 1831. "MONUMENTS OF EGYPT AND NUBIA, considered in relation to the history, religion, and civil and domestic usages of ancient Egypt; described according to researches made in those countries during the years 1828 and 1829, by the two scientific commissions, French and Tuscan, and published under the auspices of the government of France and Tuscany. (*Prospectus*.)" It is to contain ten volumes of text in octavo, 400 to 500 pages each, and 400 plates, of which 100 at least will be colored. The work is to be divided into three sections, containing, I. The Civil State; II. Historical Monuments; and, III. Religion, and Public Modes of Worship of Ancient Egypt.

It will be printed simultaneously (and at the same price) in French at Paris, and in Italian at Pisa. M. F. Didot will superintend the French text, and M. Capurro the Italian.

* It is mortifying to be obliged to take accounts of German Literature from journals of other countries; but there are no recent German *periodicals* within our reach. *Rotteck* is unquestionably an interesting and popular writer, but his thoroughness in historical accuracy and research, is, by some competent judges, called in question.

It is to appear in forty numbers, the first being promised for January, 1832. The expense is not to exceed \$00 francs, and the work is to be completed in three years. The name of Champollion is closely connected with the late discoveries in regard to the decyphering of Egyptian Hieroglyphics; and the curiosity of the learned is awake to see the additions that may be made to what is known concerning ancient Egypt.

THÉORIE DES RESEMBLANCES, ou Essai philosophique sur les moyens de déterminer les dispositions physiques et morales des animaux d'après les analogies de formes, de robes et de couleurs; par le Chevalier DA GAMA MACHADO. Paris. 1831. Orné de 20 planches coloriées.

M. Lesson (an abstract of whose review of this work, we take from the *Revue Encyclopédique*,) predicts that it will be received with prejudice by naturalists whose ideas are already fixed and limited; since the anatomist in a manner rejects every thing that his scalpel does not demonstrate to his eyes, and the physiologist supports his theories of life only upon the fundamental and physical organs.

The leading doctrine of M. Machado is this: *That every being of whatever class, which resembles another, in its external form, must have dispositions and habits similar to those of its prototype.* For a long time there prevailed among naturalists the false opinion, that the color of animals and their exterior teguments were fugitive, variable, and unimportant, and that the hair and the feathers, for example, did not furnish good zoölogical characteristics. M. Machado, in giving so great a physiognomical importance to those parts, has perhaps gone beyond the mark; but he is supported in his general opinion by various naturalists, who maintain that the nature and form of the hair and feathers, and even their color, are sufficiently determinate to be of very great weight in referring animals to their species and families.

A very interesting part of the work of M. Machado is that in which he describes the habits and dispositions of the animals he has raised, with remarkable perseverance, and at great expense.

The book is intended chiefly for the fashionable, and especially for females of that class; the author wishing them to substitute for their frivolous *albums*, the delightful study of nature.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW. SENDING FREE NEGROES TO AFRICA. — In the number of this Review for October, following the title of the same, there are a few very general remarks upon the affairs of different nations; and among them the following concerning this country. "The Americans are successfully planting free negroes on the coast of Africa; a greater event possibly in its consequences than any that has occurred since Columbus set sail for the New World."

LONDON UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR 1831 - 1832. — This book is announced in *Bent's Literary Advertiser* for November, as to be expected daily; containing a history of the institution, an outline by each Professor of his plan of instruction, examination papers, hours of attendance, fees, lists of prizemen, certificated students, proprietors, &c.

LIST OF BOOKS PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS,

FOR JANUARY, 1832.

Carey & Lea, Philadelphia.

Encyclopedia Americana. Vol. 8.

History of France. By Eyre Evans Crowe. Vol. 3.

Wheaton's History of the Northmen, or Normans and Danes. 8vo.

Reid's Treatise on Clock and Watch Making, Theoretical and Practical.

Grigg & Elliot, Philadelphia.

Peters's Condensed Chancery Reports. Vol. 2. 8vo.

R. W. Pomeroy, Philadelphia.

Essays on the Pursuit of Truth, the Progress of Knowledge, and the Fundamental Principles of all Evidence and Expectation. 12mo.

Essays on the Formation and Publication of Opinions. 12mo.

J. & J. Harper, New York.

Modern American Cookery. By Miss Prudence Smith. 16mo.

The Life of Sir Isaac Newton. By David Brewster. 18mo.

T. & J. Swords, New York.

The Pomological Magazine. By William R. Prince. 8vo.

Durrie & Peck, New Haven.

Select Practical Writings of Richard Baxter, with a Life of the Author. By Leonard Bacon, Pastor of the First Church in New Haven. 2 vols. 8vo.

William Hyde, Boston.

In Press.

Book of Ornithology for Youth. By the Author of "Peter Parley's Tales." 18mo.

The Universal Pocket Gazetteer. Edited by the Author of "Peter Parley's Geography."

The Etymological Cyclopedia. By D. J. Browne.

S. H. Parker, Boston.

Publishing in Monthly Volumes.

The Waverley Novels, to be comprised in Twenty-seven volumes. Vol. 1, containing "Waverley," was published on January 1st.

Richardson, Lord, & Holbrook, Boston.

In Press.

Lempriere's Classical Dictionary Abridged, but containing every Name in the Octavo edition. Royal 18mo.

*Carter & Hendee, Boston.**In Press.*

An Introduction to the Study of Human Anatomy, with Illustrations. By James Paxton, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c., and Author of the "Notes and Illustrations of Paley's Natural Theology;" with Additions, by an American Surgeon.

The Ladies' Family Library. Edited by Mrs. Child, Author of "The Mother's Book," "The Frugal Housewife," &c. — Vol. 1. Biography of Distinguished and Good Women.

The Art of Being Happy. In a Series of Letters from a Father to his Children; upon the basis of Droz, *Sur l'Art d'Etre Heureux*. By the Rev. Timothy Flint, Author of "Travels and Residence in the Mississippi Valley," "Geography of the Western States," &c.

A Sketch of the late Revolution in Poland, accompanied by Explanatory Plans and Maps. By Joseph Hordynski, Major of the Tenth Regiment of the Lithuanian Lancers.

A Compendium of the Useful Arts. With Plates. Adapted to the Use of Schools and Academies.

Self-Education, or the Means of Moral Progress. Translated from the French of M. le Baron Degerando. Second edition. In 1 vol. 12mo.

Elements of Natural Philosophy, for Academies and Schools. By F. J. Grund, Author of a "Treatise on Plane and Solid Geometry," and Translator of "Meier Hirsch's Problems."

*Perkins & Marvin, Boston.**In Press.*

Biography of Eminent Self-Made Men. 12mo.

Memoir of Addison Pineo. 18mo.

*L. C. Bowles, Boston.**In Press.*

Juvenile Library. Vols. 2, 3, and 4.

Sermon at the Ordination of the Rev. E. H. Edes at Eastport. By the Rev. Jason Whitman.

Hilliard & Brown, Cambridge.

Commentaries on the Law of Bailments. By Joseph Story, Dane Professor of Law in Harvard University. 8vo.

Remarks on the Mineralogy and Geology of Nova Scotia. By Charles T. Jackson and Francis Alger. [From the Memoirs of the American Academy.] 4to.

In Press.

Ware on the Formation of the Christian Character. Seventh edition.

Folsom's Livy. Third edition.

The Capteivi of Plautus.